

Pakistan to get French nuclear plant

ISLAMABAD (AP) — French President Francois Mitterrand announced Wednesday he had approved the sale of a nuclear power plant to Pakistan, ending a 14-year-old ban on French sales of nuclear energy to this country. "France pledges to authorize French industrial enterprises... to make rapidly a technical and commercial offer for the sale of a nuclear power plant to Pakistan," Mitterrand told a news conference. He did not discuss the proposed size of the plant, although several Pakistani officials, who declined to be identified, said the government wanted a plant of at least 900-megawatt power. Mitterrand's announcement came at the end of a four-day official visit to Pakistan, the first by a French leader in 25 years. He traveled to Islamabad early Thursday. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said the same news conference that a French-supplied plant would be "open to all international safeguards and monitoring teams." Pakistan, however, is not a signatory to the international Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and refuses to sign it unless its powerful neighbour India also does.

UNIFIL kills two guerrillas

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — Security forces in South Lebanon said a Norwegian peacekeeping force Wednesday killed two UNIFIL guerrillas near Israel's self-declared "security zone." They said the unit, part of the United Nations Truce Supervision Force in Lebanon (UNTSF), opened fire on the guerrillas who were trying to hide weapons in U.N.-patrolled territory in South Lebanon near the Israeli border. There was an immediate counter-attack from UNIFIL, whose spokesman said was successful. On Monday, two U.N. soldiers were killed and six wounded by guerrillas in the "Lebanese resistance" said the shooting took place in the village of Haddata, which has been under Israeli occupation since 1982. They said the guerrillas had clashed with an Israeli force at Haddata, wounding two, before the peacekeeping force shot at them for hiding their weapons. "It was a dispute over hiding weapons in U.N. areas," said one security source.

Arafat, Qadhafi discuss Soviet influx

JNITS (AP) — Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat met Wednesday with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to discuss their common concerns over the recent influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union to Israel. Arafat said the influx represented a danger for all Arab states, and he urged the meeting in Beirut to discuss the evolution of the Palestinian struggle, in particular, of the use of the armed struggle which represents the only way to achieve the rights of the Palestinian people but also for all Muslims. Arafat said the influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union was a danger for all Muslims. Arafat said the influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union was a danger for all Muslims. Arafat said the influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union was a danger for all Muslims.

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22-23, 1990, RAJAB 27-28, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Lebanon's fight

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Badran: Squadron issue is exploited by Israel

On Tuesday, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the foreign affairs and defence committee of his country's parliament that the squadron's purpose was not to confront Israel, but to give Jordan what he called "internal backing."

After the session, however, he told Israeli Radio that the country "must guarantee that Jordanian territory is not used as a base for Israeli presence and act."

Israeli leaders have warned of possible threats from Iraq following the August 1988 ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Badran said the arrangement had "nothing to do" with His Majesty King Hussein's recent proposal for setting up an Arab corps that comprises troops from various Arab armies as a nucleus for a pan-Arab army.

"The proposal is still an idea. It is an old question based on the formation of an Arab corps to be assigned the task of defending Arab lands. Nothing has been taken towards its implementation," Badran said.

However, he did not rule out discussion of the issue by the leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council due to meet in Amman on Feb. 24. The year-old ACC groups Jordan with Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen.

"The issue is not on the summit's agenda, but anything of interest to the ACC members can be taken up. The leaders can discuss anything including military coordination," he said.

Upper House of Parliament endorses 1990 budget

Government to review investment policies, boost private sector's role

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Wednesday the government would reexamine the Kingdom's investment policies with a view to ensuring a better climate for investment and would boost the private sector's role in bolstering the national economy.

The government also plans to gradually sell its shares in various companies and organisations to the private sector and reinvest the proceeds in productive small and medium size projects which can produce goods for export, the prime minister told the Upper House of Parliament (Senate), which approved the 1990 fiscal budget during the same session.

The government is committed as of this year to refrain from extra public spending without prior approval from the Lower House of Parliament, and will from now on present the budgets of various public organisations to the House's Financial Committee, Badran said. Furthermore, the government will study the status of these semi-independent organisations with a view to merging some of them or placing them under direct government control.

The prime minister, who was addressing the Senate after hearing its members' remarks on the budget, reiterated the government's pledges given to the Lower House. He said the government would limit its internal and external borrowing to the bare minimum and, in accordance with the budget provisions, would abide by the economic adjustment programme and try to spread loans of big amounts over long terms.

The adjustment programme, the prime minister said, aims to make the country more self-reliant, increase national savings, stem consumption, increase investments in small and medium size projects, reduce the budget deficit and ensure social security.

Badran said that the government's recent decision to float commercial interest rates on savings and deposits was aimed to stop local funds from going abroad and reduce consumption.

At the same time, the government will, in cooperation with the local specialised credit agencies, help provide loans for investment in projects at very reasonable cost, Badran said. But he noted that the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) would keep close watch over interest rates at Jordanian banks.

The prime minister reiterated the government's pledge to the Lower House about continuing subsidies for basic food commodities within the means. The government will seek to provide subsidised commodities, mostly to the needy groups, Badran added.

He said the government would give due attention to solving the unemployment problem through a national integrated programme. He cited the recent decision by the Labour Ministry to stop issuing work permits to non-Jordanians as part of the government's measures to deal with the issue.

The Senate endorsed the 1990 fiscal budget as referred to it by the Lower House after its approval. The Senate endorsement came after hearing a report on the budget by its Financial Committee which was read out by the committee chairman, Khalil Al Salem.

In his report Salem urged the government to expand productive projects, specially in agriculture, improve public administration, help stabilise the monetary market and open the way for private enterprises. The report also urged the government to maintain subsidies of basic foodstuffs for needy groups, increase national aid fund for poor families, deal with the unemployment problem and to put an end to borrowing from the Central Bank of Jordan. It also called on the government to sell its shares in companies to the private sector, to reduce imports of cars and computers and to settle the issue of Petra Bank and retrieve stolen funds.

Among the senators who spoke was former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat who called on the government to deal with the unemployment problem. Obeidat said that by the end of 1989 there were 94,000 unemployed Jordanians, 50 per cent of whom had

Canada increases assistance by 15m dollars

Expert says Jordan's gas reserve bigger than thought

AMMAN (J.T.) — Estimates of proven gas reserves at Jordan's Al Rishkeh field have risen to 500 billion cubic feet (14 billion cubic metres) and might go higher, a Canadian energy expert said Wednesday.

J.S. Hepton, an executive of the state-owned Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation (PCIAC) told reporters the gas find was commercial and viable for electricity generation.

"There are 500 billion standard cubic feet of proven reserves," he was quoted as saying by Reuters.

"This reserve number is related to one pool and there is other evidence that there are other pools that have reserves but are not connected to the same pool."

In November PCIAC put proven reserves at Al Rishkeh at 260 billion cubic feet (7.4 billion cubic metres), Reuters said.

Hepton said the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) might advise the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) to add two more turbines to an existing power station at Al Rishkeh, near the Iraqi border.

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development lent the JEA \$10 million in December to move two 30 megawatt gas turbines to Al Rishkeh, where two existing turbines are providing about 15 per cent of national electricity needs.

Jordan and Canada on Wednesday signed an agreement providing an extra 15 million Canadian dollars (U.S. \$12 million) to 32.1 million already allocated for PCIAC assistance to Jordan over the next two years, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The new funds will pay for equipment, training, advisers and technical support for NRA programmes, including continued work on evaluating Jordan's hydrocarbon potential and the development of natural gas and crude oil deposits, a statement issued by the Canadian embassy here said.

Canadian drilling rig and other equipment will be donated to Jordan in 1990 and PCIAC will help the Kingdom in its efforts to attract international investment in oil and gas exploration.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Thabet Al Taher and PCIAC chairman Peter Towe.

After the signing ceremony, Towe was received by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, who voiced Jordan's appreciation for the Canadian assistance.

Towe expressed his deep satisfaction with the level of cooperation with Jordan and praised the NRA staff for their skill and cooperation with Canadian teams.

Toujan Faisal found not guilty

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Sharia appeals court Wednesday ruled that a Jordanian woman was not guilty of apostasy, but the plaintiff, a lawyer himself, said he planned to file a new lawsuit involving the same charges.

The verdict in favour of Toujan Faisal, who was accused of challenging the Prophet Mohammad's sayings through her writings in the local press, came during the second session of an appeal court hearing. The head of the three-judge committee, Sheikh Saleh Muhaseb, ruled that Faisal was a Muslim woman who believed in the Koran and the sayings of the Prophet Mohammad.

"The court's decision has made it clear that the petitioners had political motivations not religious ones," Faisal, who ran in the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections, told the Jordan Times. "They are trying to block any progressive trend in the country," she said. Faisal did not attend Wednesday's court session.

When the case surfaced in October, many activists described it as an attempt by religious extremists to "stifle the woman's movement at a time when women were running in the elections for the first time in the Kingdom's history."

But lawyer Abdullah Shamayleh was not convinced of Wednesday's ruling. "I plan to file another case against Toujan and her brother, Mohammad Faisal. I have other evidence from her writings and from witnesses." The lawyer explained that the case against Faisal's brother hinges on the fact that he agreed with "every word" she wrote and said.

"The court's decision was incomplete. It did not cover all the points in the article, word by word," Shamayleh said. The lawyer was referring to a Sept. 20 article written by Faisal in the local press. "The court did not even ask me why I thought she committed apostasy," he said.

However, Faisal's lawyer, Muzir Hammo, said "the court decision is final. He (Shamayleh) cannot demand anything more." Hammo did not dismiss the possibility that Faisal may file a libel suit against Shamayleh as well as other two plaintiffs.

Shamayleh represented the two original plaintiffs, Sheikh Abdul Rahman Abdul Rahman Al Kurdi, a mufti in the Armed Forces, and Mutaseem Faris, a private in the Armed Forces, in the case filed in the run-up to the Nov. 8 elections. Both plaintiffs later withdrew after the Amman Sharia court ruled that the case was beyond its jurisdiction.

But Shamayleh later took on the case himself and filed an appeal.

The case was based on an argument that some of Faisal's writings in local newspapers "challenged the Prophet Mohammad's sayings."

Settlers can remain under Palestinian rule — Hussein

Occupied Jerusalem (Agencies) — Faisal Hussein, a leading Palestinian figure considered a potential peace negotiator, said Jewish settlers could remain in the occupied lands once a Palestinian state was established if they agreed to integrate into Arab villages.

"People who want to live in mixed Jewish-Muslim-Christian villages, that's fine, but there will be no room for ghettoes," Hussein told 200 Israeli activists of a newly formed peace movement of Sephardic Jews from slums and disadvantaged towns.

Hussein, speaking in Hebrew, said that the more than 70,000 Israelis who live in the occupied lands would have to agree to live under Palestinian rule if they wished to remain.

The Sephardic group, called "The Forum for Social Justice and Peace," claims a membership of 2,000 Jewish Israelis of Arab origin, a public which has long been a bastion of support for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc.

The new group's leaders want the Israeli government to launch peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "We have no choice but to talk to the Palestinians, even with (PLO leader) Yasser Arafat. Arafat is showing openness. Why shouldn't we be going for peace?" said one organiser, Yehuda Elush, 32, a former Likud supporter from the southern town of Beersheba.

Sniping persists in eastern Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival forces exchanged snipe fire in the embattled Christian enclave Wednesday and Samir Geagea's militia adopted a new plan to thwart any attempt by Michel Aoun to storm its strongholds.

Police said one person was killed and five people, including a six-year-old boy, were wounded by sniper fire along the confrontation lines between Geagea's militia and Aoun's troops in east Beirut and the northern suburbs.

A police spokesman said the intermittent exchanges persisted all day despite the ceasefire, which went into effect Saturday in an effort to halt the intra-Christian power struggle for control of the 800-square-kilometre enclave.

Aoun's command, in a communique, issued an updated casualty list saying another five of its 19,000 troops were killed before Saturday, which raised the overall toll of reported army fatalities to 97.

By noon count, at least 673 people have been killed and 1,877 wounded in the worst intra-Christian fight in the nearly 15-year-old civil war.

The confrontation, which broke out Jan. 30, also has inflicted damage on private and public property estimated at \$750 million.

Meanwhile, a military source close to Geagea's command said the Lebanese Forces militia has adopted a new military plan to thwart expected efforts by Aoun

U.S. 'deeply concerned' over Israel's violations of rights

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. State Department said Wednesday that human rights in the Israeli-occupied territories are a matter of deep concern, and Israel said it accepted the charges but contended that it had to use force to contain the 26-month-old Palestinian uprising.

The State Department 1989 report on human rights accused Israel of beating Palestinian detainees, 10 of whom later died, destroying property, illegally searching and demolishing houses, expelling residents and making excessive use of firearms.

The report was the second in two days to accuse Israel of trampling on the rights of the 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On Tuesday, the Arab West Bank human rights group Al Haq, said Israel increasingly used torture, "electric shocks, burnings, beating of feet, squeezing of testicles as well as sleep and food deprivation," to try to crush the uprising.

The State Department's report to Congress found an increase of killings in the occupied territories: 432 in 1989, of whom 304 were killed by Israeli forces and 128 by other Palestinians — compared with a total of 366 reported in 1988.

"This took place in an environment influenced by some statements by various Palestinian leaders and the unified command promoting violence..." tough

CONGRATULATIONS ARAB BANK

WITH ALL ITS BRANCHES

Presents sincere congratulations and best wishes to His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of the Prophetic Ascension.

May God grant Your Majesty and the Arab and Islamic nations further prosperity and success in the years to come.

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Bashir ends visit to Cairo Sudan says Israel, Cuba give military assistance to rebels

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan's military ruler said Tuesday that Israel and Cuba are giving military aid to southern Sudanese rebels and that Israeli experts have been battlefield casualties.

Israeli and rebel spokesmen disclaimed knowledge of any Israeli presence with the rebels. Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, who chairs the military junta ruling Sudan since a coup last June 30, spoke at a news conference at the end of an official visit, his third as head of state.

"We have definite proof of the presence of Israeli experts at rebel centres for training and operational planning and of military support reaching the (rebel) movement from Israel," he said.

He said his government has "information that there have been human losses among Israelis in some battle areas."

The Sudanese leader gave no details. But his main field commander in the south was quoted Tuesday as saying that three Israeli experts were reported wounded in fighting in the Equatoria region.

Akol, said: "There has not been a single Israeli that has gone to the south or near the border" between Ethiopia and Sudan.

Akol said the rebel command has not "contemplated or anticipated any form of assistance from Israel" and charged that Sudanese government claims of involvement by the Jewish state were intended to "isolate us from the Arab World."

In his news conference, Bashir said the SPLA sent to Cuba "very large numbers of young southerners" for ideological indoctrination and military training.

"They are there now, and our information is that there is a school in Cuba called the Sudan school," he added.

Brig. Dominique Cassiano, a member of Bashir's junta, told the newspaper Al Injaz Al Watany that his command had received a report saying three Israeli experts were wounded in a mine explosion while inspecting a rebel camp in Equatoria.

In Israel, Defence Ministry spokesman Dan Weinreich said: "I don't know about such an accident, and I don't know about Israelis in southern Sudan."

In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a spokesman for the SPLA, Lam

can Unity (OAU), he said. The rebels and the government held peace talks in Addis Ababa last August and in Nairobi, Kenya, in December. Both rounds were inconclusive.

The Sudanese strongman asked Mubarak after the December meeting to try to organise a third round in Cairo. President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire also has been mediating.

"Efforts are under way now by our brothers in Egypt and Zaire... and we hope that the results of these efforts will appear in the next few days," Bashir said.

But he said a 1976 joint defence agreement between Egypt and Sudan "remains in force and will not be abrogated."

Civilian Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi announced shortly before Bashir deposed him that it had been abrogated. The assertion by Bashir that the agreement remains valid appeared to indicate he has revived it.

Iran accused of burying riot victims

BAGHDAD (R) — Iran's main opposition group said Wednesday Iranian authorities had secretly buried a number of people killed in rioting in Tehran.

The Iraq-based Mujahideen Khalq quoted witnesses in Tehran as saying at least 10 people killed in riots in the Iranian capital last Friday were buried in unmarked graves at the Behesht E Zahra Cemetery.

The Mujahideen, in a telex to Reuters, said security forces in Tehran were still on alert for any new outbreak of violence.

Iranian newspapers Sunday said "opportunists" had joined a football riot Friday outside Tehran's Shiroudi Stadium.

Police said the disturbance was sparked by the last-minute cancellation of a game because of

bad weather. They said they arrested 30 hooligans stoning buildings.

The Mujahideen said Revolutionary Guards killed several people taking part in an anti-government demonstration in which they chanted "death to the Khomeini regime."

Rumours in Tehran said 800 people were arrested and two police cars set on fire. The reports could not be independently confirmed.

Meanwhile Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Wednesday urged Muslim clerics to increase their already prominent role in running the country's affairs.

"Clergymen must be present on military, political and publicity scenes in greater numbers, with

higher quality and in a more concerned manner," Khamenei told a group of Muslim clerics in a speech, broadcast on Tehran Radio.

"The clergy's participation is indispensable for continuation of the revolution and the independence of the Islamic Republic," he said.

Muslim clerics and their lay supporters were brought to power by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's 1979 Islamic revolution and are regarded by many as Iran's new ruling elite.

Apart from Khamenei, who holds supreme power under Iran's constitution, mullahs currently occupy the presidency, four of the country's 12 ministerial positions, all top judicial posts and more than a quarter of

Afghan rebels shoot down military plane killing 20

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Afghan guerrillas said Wednesday they shot down a military transport plane two days earlier near the besieged garrison town of Khost in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least 20 people.

All the dead were soldiers, a spokesman for guerrilla Commander Jalaluddin Haqqani said in the north-western Pakistani town of Peshawar, where guerrilla groups fighting the Kabul government are based.

No independent confirmation of the report was available.

The plane was bringing ammunition and soldiers from the capital Kabul and was brought down Monday by a U.S.-supplied Stinger missile in the Zankhel area about 10 kilometres west of Khost, a rebel news service said.

The Afghan Islamic Press, quoting information received from the area, said explosions continued for a long time after the crash.

Two days ago, the guerrillas said they had captured an important government hilltop position dominating Khost, which they have kept cut off by road from the rest of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile another Afghan rebel leader, Sighnamullah Mojaddi, denied Tuesday that the Mujahadeen were fomenting violence in the Soviet Union's south-

ern republics.

"The Russians are blaming us for the uprising in their Muslim areas, but the movement of Azeri and Tajiks is part of the worldwide struggle against Communism," he said.

Mojaddi, president of the rebel government in exile in Pakistan, said in an interview he knew of no weapons supplied by the Mujahadeen crossing the Oxus River into Soviet Tajikistan.

"The Afghans by themselves are in a miserable condition," he said. "They have not yet liberated their country. How can they be helping others?"

Reports from Kabul said Soviet Ambassador Nikolai Pestukhov told reporters Sunday that Washington and Pakistan were using Afghan guerrillas to foment the trouble.

Pakistan and the United States are the main supporters of Afghan rebels.

Afghans do not deny that they have poured thousands of copies of the Koran into the southern Soviet republics during more than 10 years of war in Afghanistan. But they dispute how many are going across now.

"There is no reason for that," said another Afghan leader, Syed Ahmed Gailani. "When the Soviets were in Afghanistan that would have been a good reason to

irritate them but not now."

Gailani, who goes to Tehran Wednesday to try to persuade Shi'ite Muslim Afghans to join elections proposed by the Peshawar-based exile government, said the Soviet Union could only blame itself if arms or other material were still being smuggled.

"They are pouring thousands and thousands of tonnes of war material into Afghanistan. If some of it slips back into the Soviet Union what harm will that do," he said in an interview in Islamabad.

Radical guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar is widely held responsible for much of the smuggling across Afghanistan's northern border but is reluctant to talk about it.

In Tehran, an Iranian newspaper Tuesday called for a U.N.-supervised plebiscite to determine the form of government in neighbouring Afghanistan.

The pro-government Tehran Times said a new Afghan peace plan proposed by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze could be improved to play a key role in resolving the Afghan problem.

The paper said a ceasefire in Afghanistan should be followed by a peace conference bringing together Afghanistan's neigh-

Riyadh tells citizens not to visit Thailand

BANGKOK (R) — Saudi Arabia has advised its citizens not to visit Thailand following the murder of three Saudi embassy officials and the disappearance of a Saudi businessman in Bangkok, a Thai official said Wednesday.

Government spokesman Suwit Yodmanee said Riyadh would stop issuing visas for Saudi citizens to visit Thailand for security reasons. He said he did not know when the restrictions would take effect.

"We regret very much that this has to happen. I suppose it will be in effect until we catch the culprits," Suwit said.

Describing the restrictions as understandable, he said security for Saudi diplomats in Bangkok had been stepped up since the Feb. 1 shooting of three embassy officials in a busy residential area.

Thai police believe the motive for the killing was international terrorism, but have yet to make any arrests.

Riyadh reacted to the murders by banning Thai workers from going to Saudi Arabia, an important source of foreign exchange for Thailand.

Battle over Massawa hits drought victims

NAIROBI (R) — A battle between government troops and Eritrean rebels for Ethiopia's strategic Red Sea port of Massawa forced aid donors to seek new ways of getting food to millions of drought victims, diplomatic and relief sources say.

"We can't just hope the fighting will stop," said one diplomatic source in Addis Ababa, contacted by telephone from Nairobi. "People are looking around as fast as possible for alternative ways to transport food to the north."

One alternative route being considered was landing supplies to the port of Asab, further south, and organising an airlift to the Eritrean Provincial capital of Asmara, the source said.

"The situation is as serious as it possibly could be," said another source. "Relief prospects are grim at the moment."

Massawa, and the road up to Asmara, are the obvious route for food supplies to northern Ethiopia, where U.N. officials estimate up to four million people need food aid this year.

But the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), which is fighting for independence in Eritrea and already controlled large areas in the west and north of the former Italian colony, launched a major offensive two weeks ago.

Food aid distribution in government-held areas of Eritrea, which had been going at a healthy pace, halted soon after the offensive began, relief officials said.

The rebels moved east and south, claiming to take Massawa and attacking the road to Asmara.

The government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam has denied the rebel claim to control of Massawa and diplomatic sources said it was hard to say which version was true, but they did not expect either side to give up the fight quickly.

A Danish ship entering Massawa 10 days ago with a cargo of mainly Irish-donated relief was attacked. Before it was released its cargo was unloaded by the EPLF, who said the supplies would be distributed to the needy through its own relief agency.

The attack was condemned by the European Community, one of the largest aid donors to Ethiopia, which Monday appealed to both sides to cease attacks and allow relief supplies to land.

Meanwhile it was not known what happened to about 50,000 tonnes of food stocked in Massawa when the fighting started, but some diplomatic sources feared it might have been destroyed.

It food is landed further south, airlifting it to Asmara would be necessary because the province south of Eritrea, Tigray, is in the hands of another rebel group, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

"Successful airlifts have been organised to get round the rebel-held areas in the past," said one diplomatic source.

But the problem with airlifts is that they are expensive and far less efficient than trucking, relief sources said.

One Hercules transport plane can move 1,500 tonnes a month, a small amount compared with the 18,000 tonnes a month needed by 1.25 million drought victims in Eritrea alone, said one relief source.

The current fighting in Eritrea also stalled a new plan for church agencies to take food over TPLF lines into Tigray, along with Eritrea the province worst hit by the drought.

The government said last month it would allow a group of local church agencies, the Joint Relief Partnership (JRP), to carry out an across-the-lines distribution programme.

But supplies for that plan would have come through Eritrea. Another possible way in for supplies to both Tigray and Eritrea would be to increase supplies through Port Sudan to the rebels' own relief agencies. But relief workers have said in the past they doubted everyone could be fed that way because the route was so long and tortuous.

Tunisian students, police clash

TUNIS (R) — Students clashed with police at colleges in Tunis and the southern city of Sfax overnight and police detained the leader of the pro-Islamic Students Union, a union spokesman said Wednesday.

Police fired tear-gas to disperse students who had been staging a sit-in at a training college for science teachers in Tunis.

Union spokesman Noman Eleuch said students pelted police with stones from rooftops and at least two people were injured, including a policeman.

Abdul Latif Makki, the secretary general of the Tunisian General Students Union, was held after he arrived at about 2 a.m. (0100 GMT), said the spokesman.

Other clashes took place at the Science Faculty in Sfax and six students were held for questioning, Eleuch said.

Tunisia's universities have been in turmoil for most of this academic year. Students are demanding that police withdraw from campuses and that the government reconsider plans to move one Tunis faculty to new premises.

Turkey names new foreign minister after Yilmaz quits

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's deputy prime minister and State Minister Ali Bozer was named the new foreign minister Wednesday, the state-run radio said.

The 66-year-old former law professor replaces Mesut Yilmaz, who resigned Tuesday.

Bozer, a Western-educated liberal, was in charge of Turkey's relations with the European Community (EC) to which it is seeking full membership.

"I have resigned (as foreign minister) as of today for I believe the minimum prerequisites for my continuation in office are lacking," Yilmaz told the radio.

"At a time when important developments in the world can be expected to influence Turkey, finding solutions to the problems and protecting national interests require a harmonious working of the cabinet," he said, indicating differences within the government.

A senior Foreign Ministry source said shortly before Bozer's appointment was announced that Turkey's foreign policy would not change following Yilmaz's resignation.

"The foreign policies are not personal to the minister but those of the ministry and therefore of the government. There can be no change," ministry spokesman Murat Sungur said.

Yilmaz said he had presented his views to Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut and President Turgut Ozal and "after a final assessment" had been resigned.

Akbulut told reporters Yilmaz's resignation and Bozer's appointment had been endorsed by Ozal.

Yilmaz, 43, is widely seen as a contender to head Turkey's ruling Motherland Party, a post Akbulut has said he will seek again at the next party congress expected in mid-1991.

Bozer, a former judge at the European Court of Human Rights and a member of the International Court of Justice in the Hague, was a close associate of Ozal, during the president's tenure as prime minister from 1983 to 1989.

Turkey faces ethnic problems with neighbours Bulgaria and Greece and ties with another neighbour, Syria were recently strained by Ankara's decision to cut the waters of the Euphrates River for a month to fill the Ataturk Dam.

Well informed sources expected Akbulut to ride out controversy surrounding Yilmaz's departure but they said his already limited support in the party might erode gradually.

"It seems there is a plot against Yilmaz to force him to resign... but when he resigns, he has a long political future ahead of him," political columnist Guner Civaoglu wrote in the popular daily Sabah before the resignation was announced.

Yilmaz's resignation deals a blow to a government already hit by dwindling popular support.

The Motherland Party was returned to office in November 1987 for a second five-year term with 36 per cent of the national vote.

But the party's opinion poll ratings have been below 20 per cent for the past 11 months mainly due to inflation now at an annual 60 per cent.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Menem wants better ties with Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem was quoted Wednesday as saying he wanted stronger ties with his ancestral home Syria. "Relations between our two countries have always been good and could be better. And for this reason I sent my brother Murr Menem as ambassador to Syria," he told Syrian television. The interview was conducted in Buenos Aires and the text carried by the official Syrian News Agency (SANA). "Cooperation should be much deeper not only in the commercial and industrial fields but also in the cultural and political sectors," Menem said.

Soviet envoy: No direct flights to Israel

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Soviet charge d'affaires Wednesday joined other Soviet diplomats in the Arab World in trying to smooth local alarm over the immigration of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews into Israel. The weekly Alif Ba'a quoted Alexander Kalugin, the ranking Soviet diplomat here, as saying the Soviet Union has no plans to allow direct flights for Soviet Jews from Moscow to Israel. "The talk about an air bridge between Moscow and Tel Aviv is not true as there are no direct flights... and we have no intention at the time being of opening one," he said. The Soviet official said Moscow has been under pressure from Washington to allow direct flights but the U.S. appeals have been turned down. He also said some other countries have been asking Moscow to open direct flights, but he did not name them.

Rafsanjani meets with Turkish aide

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani Wednesday met with visiting Turkish State Minister for Economic Affairs, Gunes Taner, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said Taner submitted a message to Rafsanjani from his Turkish counterpart, Turgut Ozal. He also reported to Rafsanjani about his talks with Iranian officials, and expressed his country's readiness to boost cooperation with Iran, especially in reconstruction of war-battered industries, the radio said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
16:00 News in Arabic
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News for the Deaf
18:20 Religious programme
19:00 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:20 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:10 Tel Fatah
18:30 La Chance aux chansons
19:40 News in French
19:50 Documentary
19:55 News in Hebrew
19:55 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 A Different World
21:30 NBA Basketball
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film "Stage Fright"

PRAYER TIMES

04:50 Fajr
06:00 Sunrise
11:40 Dhuhr
15:00 Asr
17:30 Maghrib
18:00 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 510740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 63275.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teresian Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assyrian International Church Tel. 627981, 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The country will be affected by a depression accompanied by a cold front. Thus, it will be cloudy and rainy and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with southeasterly moderate wind and calm sea.

	Min/Max. temp.
Amman	2 / 9
Aqaba	6 / 17
Deir	7 / 18
Jordan Valley	6 / 17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Muhammad Al-Ajam 894184
Dr. Bahjat Badr 852642
Dr. Jamil Tarif 794710
Dr. Subhi Tamoush 898903
Fina pharmacy 651912
Ferdous pharmacy 783236
Al Asama pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shuaiman pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Kamal Al Najjar (—)
Al Sheraa pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ismaeel Abdul Salam (—)
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 811222
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 863930
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage (—)

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalifah Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Khalifah Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636440
Palestine, Shuaiman 6641714
Shuaiman Hospital 669131
University Hospital 858445
Al-Mustafa Hospital 667278
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164/66
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Basid, J. Amman 891617/5
Army, Madra 666164/66
Queen Alia Hospital 632240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa General Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
The Sina Hospital (09)98752

IRBID:

Princess Beama Hospital (02)775555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)772775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)13200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
09:20 New Delhi (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:00 Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
10:45 Bangkok (RJ)
11:00 Jeddah (RJ)
11:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:10 Sanaa (LF)
12:25 Riyadh (SV)
12:30 Baghdad (IA)
13:00 Kuwait (KU)
14:00 Muscat, Bahrain (GP)
14:30 Dhahran (TC)
15:30 Dubai (EK)
19:00 Amsterdam (KL)
19:25 Frankfurt (LH)
20:10 Zurich, Lucerne (SR)
21:05 Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 Cairo (MS)
00:35 London (BA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:45 Rome (RJ)
12:00 Rome, London (RJ)
12:15 Paris (RJ)
12:30 Larnaca (RJ)
13:00 Baghdad (RJ)
13:30 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
14:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
14:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
15:15 Bangkok (RJ)
15:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
10:10 Frankfurt (LH)
13:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:30 Baghdad (IA)
14:30 Bahrain, Muscat (GP)

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

18:00 Koran
18:15 Children programme
18:30 Religious programme
18:45 Friday's prayer
19:00 Sports programme
19:15 Religious seminar
19:30 Feature film
19:45 Message from Oman
19:50 Local programme
19:55 Local programme
20:00 Programme review
20:30 News in Arabic
21:00 Local programme
21:30 Arabic series
21:45 Jewish 99
22:30 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Programme contd.

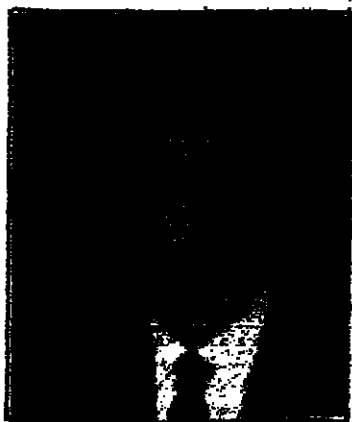
PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Des Chiffres Et de Lettres
18:00 French play
18:15 News in French
18:30 Documentary
18:45 News in Hebrew
19:00 News in Arabic
19:15 Local programme
19:30 Thirty Something
19:45 News in English
20:00 First Among Equals

PRAYER TIMES

04:50 Fajr
06:00 Sunrise
11:40 Dhuhr
15:00 Asr
17:30 Maghrib
18:00 Isha

FOR FRIDAY



Abdul Karim Al Kabarti

Government should create facilities for low-income tourists

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabarti Wednesday called for a concerted government effort to create tourist facilities for low-income tourists in a bid to boost domestic tourism.

He said setting up national camping sites in tourist regions was one of the projects that could be successful, but, he said, these projects require sufficient funds. Speaking at a meeting with local journalists, who toured archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom over the past three days, the minister said that Jordanian students visiting various areas had vandalised tourist centres. "It is now necessary to spread awareness among the children about their country's historical treasures in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and other authorities," Kabarti said.

The journalists tour, organised by the Ministry of Tourism, took them to the desert castles, Azraq oasis, the Shomani wildlife reserve and the archaeological sites in Jerash, Madaba, Maan, Karak and the ancient Nabatean city of Petra in southern Jordan.

The journalists were briefed on the ministry's programmes to boost the tourism industry. "Marketing Jordan domestically and abroad required concerted efforts on the part of the public and private sector and calls for the allocation of huge funds," the minister said. "For this reason, a committee grouping the Ministry of Tourism and the tourist offices was set up recently to raise \$800,000 as an initial fund to finance such operations," he said.

In addition, he said, the Ministry of Tourism has received a request from 13 tourist companies to set up a tourist model village in Azraq which can serve local, Arab and foreign visitors.

He said that problems related to the ministry was also working on resolving problems related to the supply of water, electricity and other services to all tourist sites like the Dead Sea. Kabarti announced that in April Jordan would be visited by the first group of Iraqi tourists and said he hoped that more groups would be visiting Jordan on a regular basis.

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171

Jordan factories need strong health safety programme

By Nur-Sadi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Risk control at Jordanian factories is very low in comparison with internationally accepted standards, according to Dr. Peter Compes, a West German specialist in occupational safety currently visiting the Kingdom.

Compes has only been here for five days and only visited several factories, but apparently his specialisation in Third World industrial sectors allows him to make quick evaluation of the problem of industrial safety.

"The situation in Jordan compares with most countries in the region," he told the Jordan Times. "While the factories have high productivity and efficiency the management overlooks safety problems," he said.

While inspecting factories, he found out that the main problem was behavioural, "especially in men's dealing with machines."

Neither the management nor the workers have risk awareness because of lack of industrial, educational or vocational training, Compes asserted.

There are conflicting views between management and workers concerning industrial accidents. "I observed that the management would blame the employees for accidents accusing them of not doing as they

are told," he said. On the other hand, employees insist that working conditions are not safe, he added.

According to a factory employee, who did not wish his name to be published, "we are expected to produce quality and quantity products in the shortest time possible while the management ignores the risk of accidents."

Compes agrees. He says that management outlook should change and that better working conditions be introduced, giving employees more rights, responsibility and reliability and defining their exact duties.

Another factory worker said he felt that the management does not seem to care about employees. "They are only concerned about making profit and they cannot seem to find a medium where they can make profit while at the same time taking the well being of employees into consideration," said the worker, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

According to Compes, a strong industrial safety programme should be imposed in Jordan by the concerned authorities. "I found that such a programme is missing in the factories," he said. The Social Security Corporation should also provide factories with technical officers who would supervise and seek to minimise the risks, he suggested.

According to a factory manager, "the government is not intervening sufficiently in providing a legal system or any sort of constructive factory inspection." He said he would "like to see more officials around."

But Compes insisted that the management should employ a skilled and qualified safety engineer. "In West Germany it is by law that every company and factory have such a qualified person," he said.

"A safety engineer can advise the management and consult with employees. The engineer would bear responsibility and liability towards accidents and would provide the factory with accident statistics in terms of frequency and economic consequences. "This is crucial and it is missing in the factories I inspected," Compes said.

The management is also unaware of the costs incurred due to accidents, he said. In addition to talking about the ethical and legal background of safety measures, the management should also concentrate on finding out their financial losses due to accidents, he added.

Safety activities should have the same importance as production activity. "It is better to prevent accidents than to pay for its consequences," Compes said.

U.N. envoy probes means of assisting Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is keenly concerned over the economic development process in the occupied Arab territories in light of the deteriorating situation there over the past two years, according to de Cuellar's special envoy to Jordan Francis Blanchard.

Blanchard, who is in Jordan to discuss ways of providing economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people under occupation, said that his mission here requires coordination with all organisations that can help in this matter.

Blanchard, in a meeting with Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reviewed the situation in the Israeli occupied lands and Jordan's assistance to the refugees.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Qatanani presented a detailed outline to the U.N. envoy on the economic situation in the Arab territories pointing out Israel's obstruction of humanitarian and economic projects designed to improve the living conditions of Palestinians living under its rule.

Qatanani also discussed Israel's taxation policies imposed on the Palestinians, which, he said, was obstructing any economic development.

Blanchard, who earlier heard the views of other Jordanian government officials, about the situation in the occupied territories, plans to visit Cairo before going to Tunis for a meeting with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

He said at a meeting with the speakers of the Lower and Upper House of Parliament that Israel was trying to foil his current mission by blocking his visit to the occupied territories.

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Petra Bank protest snowballs; prime minister said to step in

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A stage-in protest by Petra Bank employees appeared to have gathered momentum Wednesday as more employees participated in it and for the first time publicly demanded the resignation of the bank's management committee.

The protesters threatened to escalate their action if their demands were not fully met. Their initial demands a few weeks ago, and until their first sit-in on Tuesday, had been better working conditions and management reform. But the protest snowballed into demanding the removal of the management, which took over the bank in line with a decision taken by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) last August.

If the management resigned, some of the protesters gathered in front of the Petra Bank main offices in Wadi Saqra said, they will work for free to "put the bank on its feet, something the management has failed to do." They reiterated that their demands were not financially-oriented but focused on management reconstruction.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Wednesday, Dr. Jawad Anani, vice-chairman of the management committee, said the management would not resign unless the government asked them to.

"The government appointed us, and the government tells us to quit. This is their decision,

not ours," Anani said. The Jordan Banking and Insurance Employees Association (JBIEA), which is backing the employees' demands, said that Prime Minister Mudar Badran had agreed to meet with the association to discuss the issue.

Anani said the proposed meeting was a "good idea, but I hope they deliver reasonable demands if they want them fulfilled, and not the demands they are making now."

He added that he doubted the government would ask the management to resign before auditors prepare a final report on the financial status of the bank as of Aug. 3, 1989; that is, before the management takeover. He did not say when the final report would be complete.

Anani expressed concern over the escalation of the protest. He said it would only widen the gap between the management and employees, and between the government and employees. "The bridge will become more difficult to build between the government and the association representing the employees," he said.

An active member of the JBIEA, Yusef Hurani, said the association had not yet adopted the employees' demand for the management resignation, "but if that is what the employees want, we will do it."

Hurani told the Jordan Times that leaders from 17 different trade unions met Tuesday night and decided to send messages to the speakers

of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and the minister of labour to intervene to solve the employees' problems and ensure the continuity of the bank.

He also said that the association presidents had decided to postpone a trip to Baghdad to attend a festival of trade unions in Iraq because of the Petra Bank affair.

Political activists and trade unionists addressed the protesters Wednesday and expressed solidarity with them and supported their demands in their entirety.

Deputy Ahmad Oweidi Al Abbadi also attended the protest in support of the employees and called on the management to "come down here to the street if you really care about the institution."

Many employees from branches outside Amman, particularly those in Irbid, Karak and Ajlun, joined their colleagues in the sit-in. They told the Jordan Times that they had stayed away from work Tuesday, but came to Amman Wednesday to be with their colleagues in the second day of protest.

Some of the protesters told the Jordan Times that the management had assigned substitutes to branch managers to open the bank, but the bank failed to operate.

"This was an unprofessional move by the management because first of all the substitutes could not operate, and secondly substitutes are supposed to officially receive the keys and credentials from the actual

branch manager so that responsibility is pinpointed in case something goes wrong," one branch manager told the Jordan Times.

Printers join protest

Employees from the Petra Bank printing press also joined the sit-in, demanding better conditions. One of them told the Jordan Times that they do not enjoy similar benefits as the bank's employees such as two-month bonus salaries, health insurance and provident fund. He claimed they were under "constant threat" from the management that the press would be closed down.

In another development, the association representing employees of publishing houses and printing presses announced at the sit-in that it would ask its members not to work next Saturday in solidarity with the Petra Bank employees.

Many of those working at the Petra Bank printing press also work for newspaper printing houses in the evenings and could paralyse newspapers if the call was implemented.

There were more than 850 people after 2 p.m. (after working hours) gathered on two sides of the road in front of Petra Bank. Approximately 200 of whom were employees of other banks, insurance companies and trade unions, expressing their solidarity with the Petra Bank employees' protest. Present at the sit-in were also Petra Bank clients expressing support for the employees.

Ministry offers help to 133,000 disabled

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Social Development currently provides services to 133,000 handicapped people, most of them children, through 56 government and voluntary organisations, Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh said Wednesday.

He expressed hope that the ministry's services would be expanded further to cover help to all the handicapped and needy,

Shreideh said at the opening ceremony of a new premises of the National Aid Fund (NAF) in Jabal Hussein held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The Queen formally opened the building and was briefed by NAF Director Khalil Al Farouhi on the fund's operations since its establishment in 1986.

The fund is providing regular financial assistance to needy

families and offering lump sum assistance to help heads of families to start small businesses and offers vocational training to the needy to help them earn a living, he said.

The NAF is a financially and administratively independent branch of the Ministry of Social Development. It carries out studies to identify needy groups eligible for financial help, which

in some cases reaches JD 40 a month, as well as free health insurance and medical services.

The NAF, which receives allocations from the general budget and through donations from individuals and various organisations, operates through its 24 offices around the country.

The Lower House of Parliament recently approved a proposal to double the fund's 1990 fiscal budget to boost its programmes.

Ministry to spend JD 40m to equip schools

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education said Wednesday that it would spend JD 40 million from now until 1998 to equip schools with technical facilities, including laboratories, and setting up centres for making educational aids for schools.

These projects, to be carried out in three stages 1989-1992, 1992-1995 and 1995-1998, will go hand in hand with the implementation of recommendations adopted by the 1987 educational conference for overhauling the educational system in the Kingdom, according to Dr. Ahmad Hiyasat, director of the ministry's Department of Curricula and Educational Techniques.

"At present, government schools in Jordan lack proper laboratories, school libraries, halls for educational television programmes and educational aids," Hiyasat said. He said that Jordan's ability to produce educational materials for schools, let alone producing materials for laboratories, was "very limited indeed."

But, he said, between 1989 and 1998, the ministry would try to

supply schools with many laboratories and their proper equipment and would set up libraries and build school auditoriums.

Between now and 1998, secondary schools, for instance, would have 377 auditoriums and 295 laboratories for physics, chemistry and biology, according to Hiyasat.

He said that his department would set up eight centres that would make educational aids for schools and their laboratories and libraries. These, he said, include maps, posters, boards, printing and photographic materials among other essential requirements.

The ministry was giving a lot of attention to computer science which would gradually be introduced to all schools, Hiyasat said.

He said that the ministry has now introduced computers at 163 schools and computer subjects have been incorporated into the school curricula. In addition, the ministry has sent teachers and specialists on training courses abroad to acquire the essential skills for this type of work, Hiyasat said.

Weekly reborn after 40 years

AMMAN (J.T.) — The latest arrival at Jordan's news stands is a weekly paper called Akher Khabar, the last news.

The Cyprus-based newspaper is published by cartoonist Jalal Al Rifai, an unnamed financier and journalist Basem Sakejha, Sakejha told the Jordan Times. The paper is printed at Zarqa Free Zone.

The first issue carries number five, because Sakejha chose to renew a magazine his father Ibrahim Sakejha published in 1950. The 1950 magazine was suspended by the government only after four issues because Sakejha Sr. at the time had published an item that incurred the wrath of some people who later beat him up, according to Sakejha Jr. The father then left for Jerusalem.

Another article, claimed that the idea of a confederation between Jordan and Palestine, before the establishment of a Palestinian state, was being discussed by Jordan and the PLO.

The newspaper, which will appear every Monday, also carried an interview with Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) leader Nayef Hawatmeh. Hawatmeh told Akher Khabar he would be visiting Amman and Salt, his birth place, soon.

Confiscated 'Satanic Verses' destroyed

By Samir Hiyari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Confiscated copies of the book "The Satanic Verses" by Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie were destroyed here by the concerned authorities, official sources said Wednesday.

The sources, speaking to the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i on condition of anonymity, said an unknown number of copies of the book were burnt since it is banned in Jordan under the Press and Publication Law. They said that the books had been smuggled into Jordan by travellers and visitors to the country or arrived here by post.

Rushdie has been in hiding in Britain for almost a year after his novel, which Muslims

say blasphemes Islam, drew Iranian death threats. He went into hiding last February after Iran's late leader Ayatollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill him.

Publication of the Satanic Verses in Britain and elsewhere sparked Muslim anger worldwide, and Rushdie, who has lived in Britain since he was 13, said he did not think he would be more secure by moving to another country. Since going into hiding, Rushdie has written book reviews for British and American newspapers.

In a recent interview with the British Guardian newspaper, Rushdie said the hostility against him was misplaced and that he had received many letters of support from Muslims who had read the book.

Toujan Faisal not guilty

(Continued from page 1)
The plaintiffs had specifically referred to the Sept. 20 article written by Faisal in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i in response to another more traditional definition of a Muslim woman's role in society. The suit had sought to declare Faisal legally incompetent, dissolve her marriage, turn down her repentance if she made one, deny her all rights, ban her writings and give immunity to anyone who sheds her blood.

U.S. 'deeply concerned'

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli security measures, the breakdown in law enforcement against conventional crime, and factional differences among Palestinians," the report said.

In Israel itself, the report said, Arab citizens have not shared in the rights and duties of Jewish citizens.

The State Department report

noted shortcomings in the military justice system which it said rarely acquitted defendants and most often convicted them based on confessions of questionable legality.

Brigadier General Amnon Strashnov, Israel's chief military prosecutor, said some details of the U.S. report were wrong but he accepted many of the charges by Israel's closest ally.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Cherem, Mezguich, Mnouchkine, Pischon and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of paintings by Alla Announa, Nabila Elimi and Nawal Abdallah at Abdul Hameed Shomani Foundation (10 a.m. - 8 p.m.).
- A photographic exhibition by Samer Al Tai at the Yarmouk University.
- An Iraqi book exhibition at the Mu'ta University.
- An exhibition entitled "Twenty years of French contribution to studying Syrian archaeology" at the Institute of Anthropology and Archaeology at Yarmouk University.
- An exhibition entitled "Models of the Jordanian plastic art" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- A photographic exhibition on the Soviet armed forces at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- A feature film entitled "Sophie's Choice" at the American Centre - 7:00 p.m.
- A Soviet film entitled "The Revolution Knights" at the Soviet Cultural Centre - 5:30 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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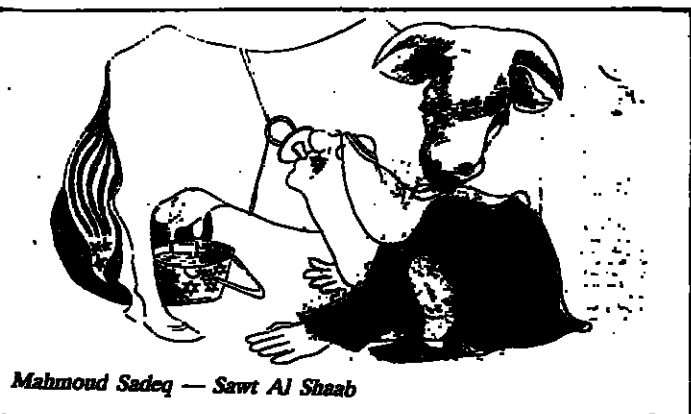
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Proper diagnosis required

THE convening of a special United Nations session to discuss and probe the issue of drug trade is a timely international effort to root out the drug scourge at the source level. The magnitude of the drug epidemic is reflected in the volume of drug trafficking estimated at about \$500 billion, making it second only to international arms trade. However, this global war on drug cannot succeed without a concurrent deep-rooted commitment from all the countries of the world to lend their unwavering support to this international effort by incorporating the guidelines of the United Nations against drug trade into their respective domestic measures.

Admittedly there are already a considerable body of international and domestic legislation on how to combat the drug problem and all that is lacking is the will and determination to enforce such laws in a sensible and rational manner. Still, there is room for the argument that there is nevertheless need for an international convention that treats the drug problem in all its dimensions and manifestations. Unfortunately, existing domestic and international rules and regulations on illicit drug trade treat it as if it was only a matter for police action. This limited and short-sighted approach to a rather very complex crisis suggests that the diagnosis of the problem remains quite rudimentary and elementary never rising to the true challenge. What complicates the crisis even more is the fact that its causes differ from one society to another, thus requiring different prescriptions. There was a time when the entire drug problem was viewed as essentially a Western phenomenon that only developed into the industrialised world. Yet we now know better than to associate the drug problem with only the post industrial era of development, since the source of the problem is often linked to the developing world where poverty is still the dominant feature of societies. In other words the genesis of the drug problem can be attributed to many causes that are not necessarily related. This complicated diagnosis would require complicated remedies. That is why this timely international intervention must seek a balanced yet complimentary approach to the drug crisis characterised by a multi-faceted and multi-dimensional approach. Otherwise the recommended remedy would fall short of the desired goal and the drug problem would remain unresolved for all intents and purposes.



Mahmoud Sadeq — Sawt Al Shaab

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday urged the Arab countries to deal with the common challenge facing the nation with one stand and united body. The situation is quite clear now: We are facing a conspiracy hatched by certain international forces which have no regard or respect to the Arab Nation's rights or interests and which are moving with determination and wickedness to achieve their goals in the Arab region, the paper warned. What is happening in the Arab arena is solving international problems at the expense of the Arab Nation and the Arab Order because hostile forces are well assured that the Arabs can do nothing to stop any action, the paper noted. It said that the situation is so serious that allows no further procrastination or delays on the part of the Arab countries. The Arabs ought to pool their resources and unify their ranks and adopt a collective action not by mere words but also by deeds if they hope to safeguard their national interests, the paper added. It said that any new moves on bilateral or pan-Arab levels should follow a new course with a new mentality to achieve its purpose otherwise the Arabs are bound to be overwhelmed by the international conspiracies which aim at destroying the Arab World.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily advocates the cause of the daily-paid workers at Amman municipality. Salah Abdul Samad draws attention to the fact that these daily-paid workers do a great service to the capital and although they form a large sector of employees, they do not enjoy essential things offered to the rest of the public. Abdul Samad notes that these workers for instance are not covered by the health insurance system; and many of them with some university degrees are not fairly treated like their colleagues in other public services. In view of the soaring cost of living and the rising prices, it is most opportune for the concerned authorities to come to the aid of these unfortunate men who deserve appreciation for their efforts, the writer continues. He says these daily-paid workers who offer their good service to the community ought to receive a better treatment and ought to be helped to retain their good health so as to continue their service.

Sawt Al Shaab daily noted in its editorial Wednesday that voices that warn of the danger inherent in the influx of Soviet Jews in Palestine are many. These voices came from all Arab states particularly Saudi Arabia which has an influential role in the Arab World, the paper noted. It said that Jordan hopes that Riyadh will set a good example for the rest of the Arab countries by taking the initiative to provide Jordan with the proper means to enhance its steadfastness and protect the Arab Order.

Talking Straight

Is the National Charter a good idea?

By Marwan Muasher

THE subject of political parties in Jordan is closely coupled these days with that of the National Charter. There are strong sentiments in the country for and against the charter, and, although little is yet known about it, many have already made up their minds on where they stand on the issue.

What is known is that a Royal committee will be entrusted with drafting a document that would attempt at explaining important parts of the constitution, particularly those related to organised political activity in the Kingdom. This committee, which will be comprised of members from all parts of the political spectrum, both from inside and outside parliament, will then define a political framework for the country, a set of rules for playing the political game. The document, once formulated, will be offered to the people in a public referendum. If accepted, it will open the door for the re-emergence of legal political parties, which will be free to preach and exercise any ideologies they might choose as long as they abide by the principles of what will become to be known as the National Charter. Little is known beyond that as to the range and depth of issues that the Royal Committee would tackle, the length of time it will take, the legal power the charter will have, and other pertinent issues. But, it is evident that there is already a lot of discussion about it.

Those who favour the idea of the National Charter argue that the country has been without an organised, party-based political system for the last 33 years. The experience of the fifties was not a very successful one, they say, and the re-emergence of political parties without proper preparation would risk the stability the country enjoys, and might endanger all what has been achieved before. The charter, therefore, a proper safeguard to ensure an orderly and non-turbulent transition back to a party-based system. Skeptics are afraid that the charter is a tool that will be used by the government to dilute their political rights, and would

serve to put a ceiling on political parties, to ensure that they are never allowed to mature, and have enough power to effectively share in governing the country. The constitution is clear, they say, and there is no reason why we should further attempt to explain it by a charter which does not have any legal cover.

Before I attempt to take sides, I think the basic question to answer is to look at the basic political goal that joins Jordanians from all walks of life, and then see if the charter helps or hurts the achievement of that goal. I think it is obvious that everybody today in Jordan is calling for the institutionalisation of the political process in the country. Everybody wants to have a say in shaping the country's future, everybody is interested in developing tools to do so, and it is to everybody's advantage to achieve this in an evolutionary manner that would not give the country and violent shocks.

Seen in this light, the National Charter can be regarded as a compromise and a tool. It is a compromise between those who are eager to go back to a party system as soon as possible and those who are afraid that doing so without the proper safeguards would gravely upset the tight balance in our society. It is a tool that will provide the mechanism for such an orderly transition, setting rules which no side need dominate, but are acceptable to all.

The rest is detail. What needs to be done is to assure its credibility, make sure it covers all the basic issues, and give it the proper legal cover.

Credibility can be attained by going to all lengths to ensure that the Royal committee genuinely represents all walks of political life in Jordan, and that it includes members from inside and outside parliament. I would also suggest that parliament itself elect its own representatives to the committee.

While it is premature to define the issues that the committee will concern itself with, I do not find it harmful at all to have

another look at our constitution. Romantic talk aside, it is not a bad idea at all to attempt to explain articles of the constitution, amend others, or even delete some. To be honest, the constitution is not generous in words when it comes to forming political parties, and like all other rights given to Jordanians, adds qualifying statements that practically always puts laws above the constitution. Allow me to quote Articles 15 (ii) and 16 (ii, iii) of the constitution to illustrate this:

Article 15 (ii): Freedom of the press and publications shall be ensured within the limits of the law.

Article 16 (ii): Jordanians are entitled to establish societies and political parties provided the objects of such societies and parties are lawful, their methods peaceful, and their by-laws not contrary to the provisions of the constitution.

Article 16 (iii): the establishment of societies and political parties and the control of their resources shall be regulated by law.

The point I want to make is that the constitution should be amended to ensure that such articles as 15(ii) and 16 (iii) do not negate any rights given by the constitution because of a bad law that might be enacted as has been the case repeatedly in the past. We need an article much like the First Amendment in the American constitution prohibiting parliament (congress) from enacting laws to abridge basic freedoms, and ensuring that the constitution is not abused.

Finally, we need to give the charter proper legal cover. I suggest that after and when it is accepted by the referendum that it is also ratified by parliament. Once that is done, parliament should amend the constitution and enact the proper laws that would implement the content of the National Charter. In this way, the charter would become part of our political process. Is the National Charter a good idea? My answer is yes. Let us set out and do a good job with it.

W. Germans poised to dominate eastern markets

By Carol J. Williams
The Associated Press

BONN, West Germany — Before the Berlin Wall opened in a symbolic breach of the East-West business barrier, Salamander AG had produced more than 50 million pairs of shoes for fashion-starved East Germans and Soviets.

Volkswagen, maker of some of Europe's best-selling cars, has for nearly 20 years been fitting Golf and Polo sedans with headlights, horns and engines made under contract in East Germany.

From Bertelsmann publishers supplying book clubs in Dresden to the Aske department store managers in Bulgaria, Hungary and the Soviet Union, West German merchants who nursed weak business prospects through the frosty decades of East-West discord are best positioned now to exploit opportunities in Eastern Europe.

"While many other European and other countries are trying to get their foot in the door in Eastern Europe, we're already in, sitting on the sofa and having tea," Jochen Degkwitz, Deutsche Bank assistant vice president of East European affairs, said in describing his nation's commanding lead.

West Germany's boldness primarily has benefited cousin East Germany, and they seem to be moving towards economic reuni-

fication with stunning speed.

The West German mark, for example, could soon become the single national currency, a monetary union that would give Bonn enormous influence in rebuilding and reshaping the sickly East German economy.

West Germany already has the strongest economy in Europe, a strategic location as the pivotal point between East and West, and a long history as Eastern Europe's largest Western trading partner.

When finally calculated, West German trade with the East Bloc for 1989 is expected to exceed the \$31.7 billion recorded the previous year. It accounted for more than half of all business volume between Western Europe and the East Bloc, but only about 5 percent of West Germany's worldwide total.

It's difficult to estimate the potential for new business and industry in a region long locked in Socialist economics. But Eastern Europeans are starving for products ranging from cars to can openers. Economists say this demand could eventually translate into enormous profits for investors with the money and patience to endure a transition that could last a decade.

Heinrich Vogel, an economist who heads Cologne's Institute for Eastern and International Studies, contends the consumer needs of more than 400 million

people in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union present international business with its best opportunity.

"The potential, in terms of an educated work force with unsatisfied consumer demands and a broad technology gap, is tremendous. Everyone is looking for new markets, and where else in the world do you have a better chance to make money?" Vogel said.

Western Europe, which has more than 10 times the volume of trade with Eastern Europe than either Japan or the United States, could retain its edge because of proximity and shared history and culture.

Most of the hundreds of cooperative ventures bringing Western goods to Eastern buyers are between European partners.

Philips of the Netherlands, for example, makes videocassette recorders with Tesla of Czechoslovakia, while Sweden's Volvo sells vans to East Germany. Austria's Wienerwald restaurant chain has branched into Hungary, and a handful of Western automakers recently have announced new projects, including a Volkswagen plant in Karl-Marx-Stadt and a Renault venture in Czechoslovakia.

Replacing costly imports with home-produced goods is the primary aim of East Europeans, said Gerd Adomeit, East European trade specialist with West

Germany's industry and trade council.

"We will contribute to their reconstruction mainly by cooperation in joint ventures and by providing technology, management skills and marketing skills to sell products in the West," Adomeit said. "However, import substitution is more important to East Europeans now."

Many West German businesses, sensing what was needed long ago, have been engrossed in efforts to help modernise Eastern Europe's crumbling infrastructure. Some are expected to do quite well in projects ranging from communications to power generation.

Stock prices have shot up for firms like Siemens electronics, a likely candidate to revamp the East Bloc's woeful telephone network. Upgrading of industrial plants will draw on the technical know-how of Thyssen, Hoesch and Preussag, and Daimler-Benz's transport expertise is in demand for the region's daunting rail electrification needs.

Most pressing and therefore most promising is the field of environmental cleanup, as Poland, East Germany and Czechoslovakia view for the dishonour of the continent's most polluted state.

West Germany has pledged more than \$1 billion to 17 East German cleanup projects. Asea Brown Boveri of Switzerland will



Why the hurry, chum?

(Cartoon: Behrendt Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung)

be producing steam turbines and other power plant equipment with Poland's Zamech firm in one of the first projects aimed at environmental improvement.

Much of the West European interest in entering cooperative projects with the East is stifled by indecision and inconsistency in the laws regulating foreign investment.

Some countries have yet to adopt clearly defined rules for joint ventures and repatriation of profits by foreign companies, for example. Even investments in tourism, considered an easy and

quick way to lure foreigners and their money, are hampered by poor transportation and unmotivated workers.

"People who think they can come in and make a quick buck are going to be very disappointed," said Eddy Buehlmann, senior vice president for American Express travel related services for Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

"Service with a smile, or service with sentiment, as we say at American Express, doesn't exist in Eastern Europe," Buehlmann said.

Japanese voters flirt with new power structure, but shy away

By Rick Miller
Reuters

TOKYO — Japanese voters have shied away from ending the ruling party's 34-year hegemony for now, but their flirtation with the possibility of a new power structure may be just beginning.

"Japan looked at the possibility of an opposition government and said 'no, thanks,' at least not yet," Gerald Curtis, a political science professor at Columbia University in New York, said here on Monday.

Exploiting voter fears of inexperienced leaders piloting the world's second largest economy at a time of global political turbulence, the Liberal Democratic Party rolled to its 12th straight lower-house election victory Sunday.

The LDP, in power for the past 34 years, confounded the pundits by snaring 275 of the 512 seats in more powerful lower house, thus maintaining its grip on the government.

Squabbling opposition parties found themselves unable to repeat their victory in the upper-house poll last July, when they tapped voter anger over a new sales tax and sex and money scandals plaguing the LDP to take control of that chamber for the first time since 1953.

But analysts said that historic upset may have laid the seeds of a slow but gradual shift away from the LDP's dominant rule of Japan over the past three decades.

"One-party dominant rule has ended; we haven't yet found an alternative," said Tokai University political scientist Rei Shiratori.

Thanks to its victory last July, the opposition, led by the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), is likely to be in control of the upper house until 1995 and the LDP will have

to negotiate with it on virtually all of its legislation.

"The LDP, in order to break through the deadlock, will have to form some sort of policy agreement with the opposition," Shiratori said.

Although the voters returned the ruling party to power with a resounding victory on Sunday, opinion polls taken before the election showed that many Japanese would like to see a true two-party democracy in the country.

The Japan Socialists, piloted by the fiery Takako Doi, was the main beneficiary of the voters' unease with one-party rule, increasing their representation in the lower house to 136 seats from 85.

"I think, we as a nation, resist change," said 32-year-old Hiroshi Motoki, a private tutor. "But at the same time, we are very fed up. I was personally hoping for some sort of bipartisan arrangement between the LDP and the JSP but the result was very disappointing."

In the end, the JSP was unable to either field enough candidates to win the election on its own or form a pre-election coalition with other opposition groups.

"It looks like a return to the politics of the late '50' and '60's (which) someone once characterized as one and a half party system," Curtis said.

He was pessimistic that Doi, Japan's first female political leader, could refashion the JSP enough to convince voters that it is fit to govern.

"A lot of people have been blinded by the glow of Takako Doi," Curtis said. "It's very hard to see how the Socialist Party... can unlead all the historical baggage it has carried around all these years."

Some other analysts, including Shiratori, believe the JSP can change, although they don't see it happening quickly. The opposition's taste of power in the upper house could push it towards adopting more practical policies as it jousts with the ruling LDP.

Despite Sunday's victory, the LDP has problems of its own. Its traditional power base of farmers, businessmen and bureaucrats is showing some signs of wear and it is uncertain how long the party can juggle their conflicting demands.

"Although the LDP got an absolute majority, the LDP has some very fundamental, serious defects," Shiratori said. "They have no fundamental ideology as a conservative party."

Big business blames overseas criticism of Japan's huge trade surplus on the farmers and Japan's closed agriculture markets. The farmers say Japan's manufacturing companies are to blame, for exporting too much.

Meanwhile, increasing numbers of Japanese flocking to the cities to work are asking why they have to live in cramped housing and pay exorbitant prices for food if Japan is such a rich country.

However, in Japan's electoral district system, one rural vote is worth about three urban ones, so it's still a big temptation for all parties to court the farmers' vote.

"The electoral administration is a very serious problem if we think of building up Japan's democracy," Shiratori said.

Frightened by the prospect of losing its 34-year grip on power, the LDP pulled out all the stops to win Sunday's election, hitting up big business for a reputed 30 billion yen (\$210 million) to fund its campaign and promising farmers not to open Japan's rice market to imports.

Dreams that powered East German revolution shattered

By Andrew Gumbel
Reuters

EAST BERLIN — East German dreams of a "third way" between Communism and capitalism, which fired the passions of pro-democracy protesters last year, are being shattered by the rush towards one Germany.

Three months after the rallying cry "we are the people" ended 40 years of hardline Communism, East Germany's new democratic voice is being drowned out by brass West Germany.

"The shape of German unity is clear. It will be an unconditional annexation of East Germany by Bonn," the Green Party said, reflecting a growing suspicion here.

Protesters in Leipzig and Dresden chanted simply "freedom, freedom" in the early days of the revolution. Now they and other East Germans have to come to terms with the kind of freedom that lies ahead.

Some senior West German politicians said this weekend they favoured subordinating East Germany to West German law rather than drawing up a new joint constitution.

"It would save us the bother of negotiating," Bavarian State Minister Max Streibl said.

Many people feel Bonn sees East Germany's first free elections on March 18 not as the start of democracy there but as a hurdle to cross before it can take over.

Unification on Bonn's terms would not just wipe out East Germany's political sovereignty. It would smother a culture defining the identity of its people.

Forty years of Communism have helped shape the East German consciousness and democratic socialism, not free-market capitalism, was the political credo

that shaped opposition to the old Socialist order.

It was only after the opening of the borders to the West and the promise of free elections that anyone clamoured for unification or idolised West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Before that, heroes of the dissident movement were figures like German revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg or Marxist writer Bertolt Brecht, hardly soulmates of the conservative Kohl.

"The West Germans must finally wake up from their complacency and understand that behaving like school-teachers to other Germans only makes them look ridiculous."

Luxemburg, a founder of the German Socialist Party at the turn of the century, had particular significance because for years the Communist Party claimed her as its own despite her belief in pluralism and anti-militarism.

Now many feel politicians in Bonn should heed one of her most famous slogans: "Freedom is always the freedom think differently."

"The West Germans must finally wake up from their complacency and understand that behaving like school-teachers to other Germans only makes them look ridiculous," said Konrad Weiser, a one-time dissident film maker and now a leading figure in the citizens' movement Democracy Now.

"I don't want a Germany that

is just the federal republic expanded by a quarter, nor do I want one that is a puffed up GDR."

But West Germany's political parties, on both left and right, have poured money and expertise into carbon copy sister organisations in East Germany, leaving the grassroots groups who started the revolution out in the cold.

Bonn has also pushed for swift currency union, a move likely to bring quick profits for West German industry while sending prices and unemployment rocketing in the East.

"People say that the West is free but that all depends what kind of freedom you want," said Ingerborg Grasse, head sister at East Berlin's Charity Hospital.

"Here jobs and houses and free health care were guaranteed but we will slowly be bled dry by the West and its 'freedom'."

With East Berlin looking increasingly impotent, morale in factories and offices has plummeted. Thousands of disillusioned East Germans leave the country for the West each day, preferring months of basic subsistence and temporary accommodation in sports centres in West Germany to staying at home.

Their departure has strained the fragile economy to the limit and wrecked remaining hopes of building a new order out of the ashes of Communism.

"Although I am sceptical about the dream (of democratic socialism), it really disgusts me how riding on the current wave of fashion, anything even slightly to do with it gets stamped on," West German writer Gunter Grass said in a recent interview with the West Berlin paper Tagesspiegel.

"A ban on dreams has been decreed, which in the end means it wasn't the people of Leipzig who won, it was capitalism."



Television producer Alouna Zaki looks forward to many more years of work.

The woman behind the screen

By Katia Sabat

CAIRO — Alouna Zaki has built a reputation in Egypt's television world as a producer-director with a message. Whatever the subject of her films or documentaries, the viewer will find that there is a point to it all — something to remember.

The rapid development of Egypt's television — with three channels broadcasting to over 10 million TV sets — has produced more jobs for men than women, especially at management level, yet Zaki is one of seven women producers — she recently retired but has kept on a full schedule of activities at the TV studios. In her 60s, she can look back on a long career which has won her national and international recognition.

Stolid and pragmatic, she welcomes this journalist into her office in the TV building near the Nile during a rare moment of peace and quiet. Most of her time is spent in the studios and trailers where the video equipment is set up. Like many women of her generation who have beaten the odds to enter a career, she found that to be accepted you had to be better, which meant putting the job first and foremost. Filled with the confidence that experience

brings, she does not seem to regret it and is eager to talk about her work.

One of her recent series, called "Bitter Lakes" (*El Bohairat el Morra*) based on a novel by Aboulaala Al Sabouni is typical: a long story with many twists and plots involving a host of characters but with a strong focus. "This series shows the exodus of peasants abandoning their land to go to the cities or to foreign shores, drawn by the dream of a better life," Zaki explains, adding that she was able to enlist the help of many famous actors to fill the parts.

With her roots running deep in a small town of rural Egypt, she knew how to express the poignancy of deserting one's home in search of a future. There is new-found softness in Zaki's voice when she recalls her childhood, the house her father built to accommodate his family of eight children. "My oldest sister was just finishing college when my father died; then it was up to my mother to try to give us the formal education she had wanted so badly for herself but could not get," Zaki muses. "My mother was quite a lady, even when she was a small girl she knew what she wanted. Imagine that at 8 she decided to follow her brothers to school, something quite unheard of at the time for a girl, especially in a rural area. In the 1920s there were no schools for girls and parents did not even think about it. Well, she started a small revolution — other girls came to school, but like many revolutions it fizzled out."

With a smile Zaki admits that, although the taboos about girls' education had been lifted when she was a student, she only completed one year of college after taking classes in philosophy and psychology.

Was she already thinking of making movies? "No, not really... but once I saw in a magazine a photo that made me dream. It showed the director Mohammed Karim with his German-born wife and the caption explained that she helped him produce his movies. I remember thinking how lucky she was and how I would have liked to be in her shoes."

Zaki did interrupt her studies to marry, but it was not to a movie director. He was a university professor whom she followed to England where he did research for a few years. It was not love at first sight, she says, more like seizing an opportunity to travel. The couple had three daughters, and then after 13 years of marriage Zaki's husband announced that he was leaving her for a

teen-age girl.

"I took it philosophically," she says. "It's no use fighting reality or letting grief overwhelm you. I had had 13 rather enjoyable years, it had ended and it was time to go on to something else." The something else was work. Television was just starting and demand was high for secretaries able to speak English.

In those pioneer days Zaki was hired as secretary to an American expert entrusted with setting up the studios and organising personnel. Her lucky day came when the expert asked her to assist him while he directed a television play. She fell in love with the work and asked to be transferred to the production department, thus drawing as much criticism as her mother when she tried to attend school. Who had ever heard of a secretary becoming a director, and a woman on top of it all?

When the dust settled Zaki had won. For four years she assisted famous television producers, and then in 1963 she was given full responsibility for a half-hour play. This short production marked the beginning of a well-filled career that has known few failures.

One of her latest projects was the filming of a story called "The Taming of Man" (*Tamwid Al Rajol*) written by author Sekina Fouad. Reminded that this marked the first time that she focused on a feminist topic, Zaki says her vision of the book is somewhat different. "What I find particularly interesting in Sekina Fouad's book is the communication problem between men and women. In fact I plead for a dialogue between the two instead of resorting to the hasty decisions and stand-offs where each remains well entrenched in his/her positions. My feelings about what we call the feminist movement are similar to my mother's: she was convinced of the equality of boys and girls. Men and women share the same problems and women are not in a worse position."

"Also, I am convinced that women have brought on themselves many of the social injustices they suffered. For example they continue to look at men as the all-powerful master who must be obeyed blindly and to whom all must be forgiven."

Times have changed, Zaki adds, but not enough progress has been made. Women's rights were recognised such a short time ago that women still don't understand what it means and don't know how to capitalise on this. For example, she says, in the

movie "Taming of Man" a man who just got married leaves his bride the next day to meet his girlfriend, as he had done when he was a bachelor. The question is how will the bride react?

"Just think how incredible it would be to reverse the roles and to examine the man's reaction," Zaki says with a laugh. "The public would pan it... You see, we are still far from real equality, but with this movie I raised questions and may be one day the answers will come."

To the traditional question about her worst memory during a production, Zaki laughs recalling an incident involving a tiny tot needed for a short sequence. She had asked the mother to feed the baby well before "his" scene so he would not cry, but as preparations took longer than planned, she found the child soaking-wet when she picked him up to put him in bed with the main actress. "The mother had forgotten to bring any diapers," Zaki exclaims, anger creeping in. "This baby was going to catch a cold, so I took charge and the stage became a nursery for a little while." Was the baby easier to deal with than some adult actors and actresses, especially those with a reputation for being difficult?

"Some of my colleagues have had problems, but not me," she says. "Maybe it's because I value the notion of mutual respect. I give very precise instructions. I am on time for my appointments and I keep a tight work schedule. Every day in the studio is planned so that in the morning I work with one group of actors in a particular setting, and in the afternoon with another group in another setting. This way they have rest periods and you avoid the stress caused by long filming sessions."

With a touch of humour she prefers not to dwell on the works of which she is not particularly proud — "to not stir the memory of the viewers," she says, but she names her favourite without hesitation: "A Man Named Abbas" (*Rajbol esnou Abbas*) which may have been the last role of Mahmoud Al Meligi — "one of our best actors portraying the richest character in terms of feelings that I ever brought to the screen," Zaki says. Abbas, a hero despite himself, faces up to the mafia ruling a small village where he has recently retired.

Would Zaki consider changing her profession, especially when the going gets rough, as it often does? "Never, absolutely never. It's in my blood; I like it so much that I don't feel the tiredness. I only want to go on filming and to improve" — World News Link.

formed by normal-sized women. One dwarf was buried as he requested, next to the master he served in life.

But not all dwarfs were born to serve.

One named Seneb, whose large tomb abuts Per-N-Ankh's, held high office with social, religious and honorary titles, and married a normal-sized princess.

His limestone statue, a tourist favourite in Cairo's Egyptian museum, clearly identifies him as an official but has him sitting cross-legged to obscure his height.

Per-N-Ankh's statue also indicates he was far more than an ordinary bureaucrat.

Basalt was precious stone, far more expensive than the limestone used for Seneb's statue or for Per-N-Ankh's tomb and an outside viewing room that allowed visitors to offer gifts to the statue of the dead dwarf.

More than 50 tombs in the cemeteries of Giza and nearby Sakkarah had dwarfs painted on their walls. Early paintings portray little people working among other servants, holding leashes of dogs or donkeys, carrying furniture or toilet articles or making jewellery. Female dwarfs are pictured mimicking dances per-

formed by normal-sized women. One dwarf was buried as he requested, next to the master he served in life.

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Egyptologist Weeks said an official who merited a statue of basalt certainly had the eye of the king and was a man of high status.

"Quarries were the property of the pharaoh, which means he gave permission for Per-N-Ankh to have a statue made," Weeks said. "Perhaps the pharaoh had it made for him... certainly the statue was crafted in the royal workshops, but maybe by a lesser artisan because the legs are not carved as beautifully as the other parts."

Hieroglyphs on the statue and outside the tomb identify Per-N-Ankh as "an acquaintance of the king and known to the palace."

"Even to be able to be seen by the pharaoh was significant," Weeks said, "because if a person accidentally touched the pharaoh — even came into his shadow — he could be killed."

Thus far, the United States has either delivered or pledged more than \$70 million to the relief effort. The figure for the rest of the international community is about \$84 million, according to U.S. estimates.

Randa Habib's Corner

Serious fun

IN this mood of conservatism that we live in, many topics and activities need to be probed into and reevaluated. And I propose to raise here some questions so as to help the authorities find the appropriate solutions.

Let us begin today with a crucial topic: parties and what goes in them. Of course I don't mean political parties as they have their own space to be tackled with.

Dancing is and will remain a major topic at the parties in question be they private or public. Reform begins by determining whether dances should be allowed in parties.

If we agree that dancing shouldn't be banned then we need to define the kind of dancing required: oriental, occidental or accidental.

Hence, if we want to maintain the spiralling occidental dancing slow and tango must be performed in a proper manner, and under the following regulations.

Rule 1- A couple dancing cheek-to-cheek had better have their "family register book" at hand as they are bound to prove they (he and she) were next to kin, in order to be allowed on the floor.

Rule 2- Distance between dancing partners should be fixed at 15 to 30 centimetres so as to prevent direct friction. This rule can be closely monitored by a "specialised" controller.

Rule 3- The tones and level of lighting are important as light ignites dormant feelings. The halls, therefore, should be dimly lit and red-free, otherwise they should be closed.

Rule 4- Disposition and the facial expressions of party-goers be subject to a certain formula wherein closed eyes should be forbidden. Dreamful eyes are not appreciated and laughter is of bad taste. A serious expression that suits the seriousness of the situation in our area is requested.

Rule 5- Lambada and break-dancing are exempt from the above regulations.

I really hope these innovative ideas could help the authorities control "edgy" fun as fun is not a matter to be taken lightly.

Threat of famine in Ethiopia

By George Gedda
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The lives of up to 5 million Ethiopians are at risk because anti-government forces have shut down a port that has been the key entry point for outside food assistance, U.S. officials say.

Further aggravating the situation has been the prospect of severely diminished harvests throughout northern Ethiopia as a result of poor rainfall.

To the west, U.S. officials say a crisis situation is rapidly developing in the Sudan, where a bitter civil war has prevented the transport of relief supplies to rebel-held territory in the southern part of the country.

President George Bush sent a letter to the Sudanese president last week asking for his cooperation in restarting the international relief effort, to which the United States contributes \$15.7 million.

Renewed fighting has led to the suspension of food flights to southern Sudan. The government

is preventing the departure of a relief train along a route where food shortages are severe, and the rebels have been blocking relief efforts.

Estimates of the number of Sudanese potentially affected by famine range between 1 million and 3 million.

Last year, the government and rebels cooperated with Operation Lifeline Sudan, a U.N.-led campaign to pre-position food stockpiles, which averted a repeat of the 1988 famine that killed 250,000 Sudanese.

In Ethiopia, the cutoff of relief supplies through Massawa, a deep water port of the Red Sea, affects not only Eritrea province but also Tigray and portions of three other provinces.

"The next six weeks to two months is the critical time," said Andrew Natsios, director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

"We're trying to explore options for getting the food in," he said.

He added that a "worst nightmare" scenario is developing: a civil war and a famine in the same area at the same time.

A Western relief official told the Washington Post, "if the port is closed for any length of time, then there is the possibility of tragedy in northern Ethiopia."

The situation evokes memories of the 1984-85 period in Ethiopia when more than a million people died, primarily because of drought.

Renewed drought last year in Ethiopia touched off a major international relief programme led by the United States and the European Community, both of which funnel food donations through private voluntary organisations. Other contributing countries include Canada and Australia.

Thus far, the United States has either delivered or pledged more than \$70 million to the relief effort. The figure for the rest of the international community is about \$84 million, according to U.S. estimates.

Newly found statue proves little people could reach the heights

By Mimi Manna
The Associated Press

GIZA PLATEAU, Egypt — Per-N-Ankh lived the good life of an Egyptian bureaucrat about 4,500 years ago, and when he died, his pharaoh honoured him with a burial plot near the Giza pyramids.

His statue portrays Per-n-Ankh as a portly man with penetrating eyes, in the prime of life.

Per-N-Ankh was also a dwarf. Egyptian archaeologists discovered his tomb in October, his bones and statue in January. Their study has only just begun.

But they are certain eventually to place Per-N-Ankh on a select list of antiquity's most famous dwarfs and give new insights into an intriguing field already under study: The role of little people in ancient Egypt's life and religion.

Egyptologist Kuent Weeks of the American University in Cairo and the University of California, Berkeley, said he's been fascinated by the subject for more than 25 years.

"We have portrayals of dwarfs earlier than there were pharaohs," Weeks said. But he said the new find is rare because "the oldest statue we have of a dwarf has the legs intentionally cut off, and other statues disguised dwarfism."

"Here we see a pudgy man with fat legs that emphasize he's a dwarf. He's a man with power, who's saying to the world, 'It's no problem I'm a dwarf.' He's middle-aged, leading a good life and proud to say so."

The well-preserved statue, carved from black basalt, is 20 inches tall, just over nine inches deep (50 cm by 23 cm by 27 cm). It depicts a muscular official dressed

in a white kilt, his stubby legs bare from the knee to the toes.

"It's unclear yet what Per-N-Ankh's religious or bureaucratic duties were. His tomb, and the statue itself, show he was an important man, but details of his official duties are lacking. Inscriptions in some tombs of dwarfs identify them as officials in charge of 'the community of little people,' but Per-N-Ankh's listed no such ties with other dwarfs."

"We don't have proof that ancient Egyptians thought dwarfs were special but generations of artists of the old kingdom painted them performing many jobs," said Professor Ola Al Aguiy of Cairo University.

The old kingdom, Per-N-Ankh's time, lasted almost 450 years and ended in 2134 B.C. Dr. Al Aguiy, who wrote her master's thesis on ancient Egyptian

dwarfs, said they took on interesting roles in religion and magic in later periods.

Dwarfs, often associated with the sun god, participated in ritual dances outside the tomb on burial day. Dwarfs seen in dreams meant the dreamer would forfeit half his life.

"This magical aspect of dwarfs... must have had its origins earlier, especially in the old kingdom, when I suspect people believed having a dwarf would bring them luck," said Al Aguiy.

"Also, dwarfs were associated with resurrection, maybe because the ancients thought a dwarf resembled an embryo, the beginning of a new life."

The find at Per-N-Ankh's tomb brings to 121 the number of dwarf statues surviving from the first 2,000 years of Egyptian history, ending with the new kingdom in 1,070 B.C.

More than 50 tombs in the cemeteries of Giza and nearby Sakkarah had dwarfs painted on their walls. Early paintings portray little people working among other servants, holding leashes of dogs or donkeys, carrying furniture or toilet articles or making jewellery. Female dwarfs are pictured mimicking dances per-

formed by normal-sized women. One dwarf was buried as he requested, next to the master he served in life.

But not all dwarfs were born to serve.

One named Seneb, whose large tomb abuts Per-N-Ankh's, held high office with social, religious and honorary titles, and married a normal-sized princess.

His limestone statue, a tourist favourite in Cairo's Egyptian museum, clearly identifies him as an official but has him sitting cross-legged to obscure his height.

Per-N-Ankh's statue also indicates he was far more than an ordinary bureaucrat.

Basalt was precious stone, far more expensive than the limestone used for Seneb's statue or for Per-N-Ankh's tomb and an outside viewing room that allowed visitors to offer gifts to the statue of the dead dwarf.

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Tokyo share price drop fans Black Monday memories

TOKYO (Agencies) — The steep drop on the Tokyo stock market Wednesday had many hallmarks of Black Monday — but analysts are betting there were enough differences to avoid a repeat of the 1987 global crash.

As in October 1987, global stock markets have been alarmed this week by fears of higher interest rates worldwide.

Wall Street shares plunged nearly 1½ per cent Tuesday, Tokyo stocks dropped more than 1½ per cent Wednesday and European markets have been weak, largely because investors are worried about a chain of rate rises around the world.

"The similarities are worrying," said Marshall Gittler, bond market analyst at broker UBS Phillips and Drew (International).

The 1,161.19 point drop on the Tokyo market was the biggest since Oct. 23, 1987, just days after the Black Monday crash that shook stock markets worldwide.

But in percentage terms it was much smaller — just over three per cent compared with nearly 15 per cent in 1987 on the day after Wall Street's Black Monday. It did not even rank in the top 10 biggest declines on the Tokyo stock market.

With Sunday's Japanese election over, many analysts believe it is only a matter of time before the central bank raises its discount rate, the interest it charges banks for loans.

Rapid money supply growth, spreading labour shortages and a weak Japanese yen all point to an increase in the Bank of Japan's 4.25 per cent discount rate, they said.

"It's a foregone conclusion that Japanese rates are going up," said Kenneth Courtis, strategist for Deutsche Bank Group. "It's inevitable given interest rate competition around the world."

Investors are also worried about interest increases in West German interest rates — where talk of the unification of East and West is fanning fears of inflation — and possibly even in the United States.

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, head of the American central bank, cautioned Tuesday against complacency about the outlook for U.S. inflation.

"There is confusion not only over credit policy in Japan but

also in West Germany and the United States. What are the policies and are the central banks coordinating?" said market strategist Craig Chudler at broker Smith New Court. "The situation doesn't look very pretty."

It didn't look good back in 1987 either. At that time, Japanese bond yields were rising and the United States was criticising West Germany for raising interest rates.

Investor worries that the multi-lateral network of economic policy coordination was breaking down helped trigger a near 20 per cent drop on Wall Street on Oct. 19, 1987.

That set off a global chain of share price drops. But the Tokyo market held up the best to the worldwide selling spree and, some analysts argue, partially acted as an anchor for skittish stock markets elsewhere, especially in America.

This time, however, it might be New York that has to come to the rescue of Tokyo.

"The U.S. market is much better valued now," said UBS Phillips and Drew's Gittler. "There isn't the same type of speculative froth there as in 1987."

Back then, computer-driven selling linked to index futures contracts played a big role in the U.S. stock market plunge. Wall Street has since acted to rein in much programme trading, limiting its influence on the overall market.

But in Tokyo — where index-linked futures contracts did not even exist in 1987 — computer-based trading has taken on an added importance since its introduction 1½ years ago.

"It was a spiral effect," said a futures trader at Kokusai Securities Company, describing Wednesday's action in Tokyo. "People were selling (stock index) futures and selling the cash market."

In 1987, Wall Street was viewed by many as an overvalued market. Now some analysts say the same of Tokyo.

"The market is riskier now than at any time I've been involved in the last five years," said Andrew Ballingal, a strategist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan). "Equities prices in relation to interest rates are way too high... and there is earnings risk now."

Japanese policymakers put on a brave face after Wednesday's

stock price drop, saying the fall was not caused by any panic-charged selling and that volume was light.

But the finance ministry was worried enough about the rise in bond yields — they soared to four-year highs at one point this week — that it bought back bonds Wednesday for the first time since just before the 1987 crash.

Kermit Schoenholtz, economist at Salomon Brothers Asia, said Japanese stock prices fell because of domestic factors — they were too expensive when compared with bond yields — and maintained that that should limit the fall-out overseas.

"I am in no way looking for another crash of '87," said Phillips and Drew's Gittler, echoing the views of many analysts in Tokyo.

Meanwhile, the symbolic collapse of the Berlin Wall opened a door of opportunity that attracted a big flow of Japanese investment to the West German stock exchange, helping not only to fuel a market boom but also raising speculation of a big slump once the money dries up.

According to the Securities Dealers Association of Japan, Japanese investors increased the amount of their holdings of West German stocks to \$944 million by the end of 1989, about 2½ times the amount of a year earlier.

"The amount of Japanese investments has been growing nowhere else but in West German stocks," said Kazumasa Funaoka, an association spokesman.

Helping attract the investment is speculation that Eastern Bloc liberalisation and weakening East-West tensions will mean big money-making opportunities for West German companies in coming years.

Relatively weak performances in other major stock markets also have made the Frankfurt exchange look attractive.

Syria reports oil find

DAMASCUS (R) — Oil Minister Mitanios Habib said Wednesday that Syria had discovered a new oil field and that analysis of an established one showed promising reserves.

The state-owned Syrian Petroleum Company (SPC) has struck oil in commercial quantities just north of other fields in the central region, Habib told Reuters in an interview.

A study of the reserves and output capacity of the new field, named Dbaissan, was underway. Habib added that new surveys of Jarmouk field in north east Syria by the border with Iraq, carried out by Al Sham Contract Company operated by Shell, Diminex and Petrol companies, had revealed good reserves.

Syria, a member of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, produces about 400,000 barrels oil per day (b/d) from central and northeastern fields.

Habib said two oilfields, Shdaiha and Thu'ban in the central Dyr-Azzawr area, were likely to start test production of 15,000 b/d soon.

Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mohammad Imadi said last week the value of Syria's oil exports last year was 9.14 billion pounds (\$840 million). He did not reveal the quantity.

Oil industry sources said Syria planned to invest \$760 million in SPC oilfields this year. Foreign oil companies would invest \$1.104 billion in the country's oil industry.

The sources said 25 exploration and 11 production rigs were currently operating in Syria.

They added that three big power stations would be converted to use domestically-produced natural and associated gas instead of fuel oil used currently, saving \$300 million per year.

Some economists, however, appeared to dismiss Greenspan's tough talk about inflation, saying the U.S. economy is so sluggish the Fed will probably be pushed to ease credit again.

"Had he been softer on either the economy or inflation, he would have opened the door to (congressional) criticism for not having eased further," said Ray Stone of the New York firm of Stone and McCarthy Research Associates.

Greenspan said the economy, which grew at an anaemic 0.5 per cent annual rate in the last quarter of 1989, may be in the beginnings of a "modest firming."

He said the expansion, in its eighth year, may have passed its weakest point.

Some economists suggested the markets either overreacted to Greenspan's testimony to Congress, or misinterpreted it.

Despite signs of a pickup in the economy at the start of the year — including an acceleration in non-farm job growth as well as rebounds in housing and car sales — economists said the economy still has underlying weakness.

Through much of last year, the Fed had been gradually nudging interest rates lower in an effort to keep the economy from tumbling into a recession.

But the Fed has held credit steady since late in 1989. Financial markets had been anticipating another slight easing by the Fed to prop up the weakening economy, but Greenspan's closely watched testimony dispelled hopes that would happen soon.

Meanwhile, sharp rises in food and energy costs pushed U.S. consumer prices up 1.1 per cent in January, the largest monthly gain in more than seven and a half years, the Labour Department said Wednesday.

Canada curbs spending, avoids tax increases

OTTAWA (R) — Canada's Conservative Party government, its popularity at a record low, refrained from raising any taxes in a budget Tuesday but squeezed spending to trim the deficit.

"This will not be an easy year," Finance Minister Michael Wilson said in the budget that forecast anaemic economic growth in 1990.

The government appeared to heed the call of economists, business leaders and consumer groups to rely on spending cuts rather than trying to raise more from Canadians who have been hit hard in previous budgets and will begin paying a seven per cent value-added tax in 1991.

The government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, according to an opinion poll published

Tuesday, has sunk to the lowest level of any government since the Gallup organisation began polling in Canada in 1942.

Only 21 per cent of Canadians backed the Conservatives in the poll against 51 per cent for the opposition Liberals and 22 per cent for the New Democrats.

Many subsidies to business will be eliminated, the state-owned oil giant Petro-Canada will be privatised and payments to the provinces for health care and education will be frozen under the budget.

"This will place the emphasis more clearly on investing in economic development rather than subsidising the private sector," Wilson told the House of Commons in a budget speech.

In the budget, deficit is to fall to 23.7 billion dollars in fiscal 1991 from 25.3 billion dollars this year.

Budget revenues this year will rise 6.1 per cent to 99 billion dollars. Total expenditures, meanwhile, will rise 3.4 per cent to 123 billion dollars.

Spending increases on government programmes will be held below the rate of inflation, to 3.7 per cent annually for two years.

The government was forced to restrain spending because its previous efforts to trim the deficit were blown off course by higher than expected borrowing costs on government debt.

That restraint, however, will come at a painful time for the Canadian economy.

Greenspan seems unwilling to make early interest cuts

WASHINGTON (R) — The head of the U.S. central bank has appeared to rule any quick cuts in interest rates, arguing that the plodding U.S. economy seems to be showing signs of increasing vitality.

In testimony before a House of Representatives Banking Subcommittee Tuesday, Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan again and again emphasised that the Fed would continue to gear monetary policy towards holding down inflation as long it didn't torpedo economic growth.

Greenspan's remarks, made in his semi-annual report to Congress, hammered both bond and stock prices and were criticised by the business community.

"The idea that slow economic growth is needed to bring down inflation is based on a theory that has long since been discarded," the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said in a statement, adding: "In fact, higher growth rates are

associated with lower rates of inflation."

Some economists, however, appeared to dismiss Greenspan's tough talk about inflation, saying the U.S. economy is so sluggish the Fed will probably be pushed to ease credit again.

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Ciba-Geigy opens shares to foreigners

ZURICH (R) — Swiss chemicals and drugs giant Ciba-Geigy A.G. opened its share register Wednesday to international investors, joining a growing number of Swiss companies making an effort to make their stock more attractive.

"It's a very positive move," said Swiss Bank Corp analyst Roland Sturm. "It will benefit not only Ciba-Geigy but also the whole Swiss financial environment."

Until now Ciba-Geigy's core registered stock has been reserved for Swiss nations. Foreign investors have only had access to the company through a limited number of bearer shares.

Ciba-Geigy, like food group Nestle before it, has acted when conservative Swiss companies are in danger of losing investors to more liberalised, higher yielding markets abroad.

It also reflects its stature as the largest Swiss chemicals multinational with 1989 turnover of

20.6 billion francs (\$14 billion) and first half 1989 net profit of 1.38 billion (\$935 million).

Like Nestle, Ciba-Geigy has promised to lift its dividend payout to more acceptable international levels from the modest 20 per cent of earnings it rewarded shareholders with last year.

"I expect to see a much higher dividend this year," Sturm said. "The market becomes more attractive through this kind of internationalisation."

But there are dangers in opening the registered shares to foreigners, particularly in the early stages when the bearer shares lose the justification for their premium — exclusivity.

When Nestle opened its register in 1988 bearer shares plunged and dragged the whole Swiss market down with them.

But Sturm said he believed that would not be repeated by Ciba-Geigy bearer holders and that the market was now resilient.

Britons discuss offset schemes in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — A high-level delegation of British industrialists Wednesday concluded five days of meetings in Saudi Arabia aimed at developing arms-related industrial schemes that help transfer Western technology to the kingdom.

The Al Yamamah offset programme, expected to pump \$2 billion in diversified investments into Saudi Arabia, was made in connection with massive British arms sales in 1985 and 1988.

The United Kingdom sold almost \$30 billion in Tornado, Hawk, and PC-9 aircraft, plus other military equipment and services to Saudi Arabia in the first stage of the programme.

In exchange, British firms are expected to invest approximately \$2 billion in joint ventures, but potential investors have complained about the lengthy approval process.

Over the past decade, Saudi Arabia has used offset programmes to build up a technological base aimed at lessening economic dependence on oil. The first offset deals were arranged with the United States, the leading arms supplier to the kingdom.

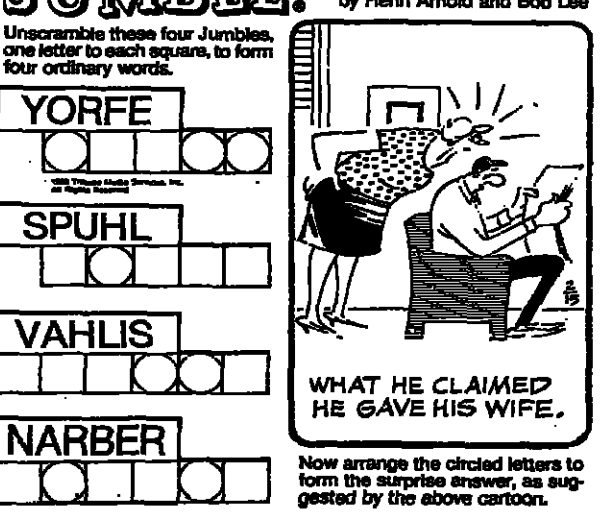
The 10-member British group — which visited Jeddah, the southwest Asian region, and the Gulf-side Eastern Province — was led by Richard Spink, head of the British Ministry of Defence Offset Office.

Among the businessmen were executives from General Electric Company, GKN, Pilkington Brothers, STC, Northern Engineering Industries, Booker-Tate and Imperial Chemical Industries.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Yesterday's Jumble: LOVER CASTE PONDOR HYMNAL
Answer: To achieve a "triumph" in life, one must put these together in combination — A "TRY" & PLENTY OF "COMPH"

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Egypt, Spain discuss trade

MADRID (R) — Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid started two days of talks on the Middle East and Egypt's trade deficit with Spain Wednesday, diplomatic sources said. They said talks with Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez covered ways to boost trade exchanges. Egypt had an \$11 million trade deficit with Spain last year. Abdul Maguid told reporters Spain, as a European Community member and a Mediterranean country enjoying good relations with Arab countries, was a major partner for Egypt. Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez pledged all-out support to overcome Egypt's economic crisis when he visited Cairo in 1987. Abdul Maguid inaugurated a joint cooperation commission with Fernandez Ordonez and later met King Juan Carlos.

EI Al wants to fly to E. Germany

EAST BERLIN (R) — Israel's EI Al airline wants to start regular flights to East Berlin now that diplomatic relations with East Germany look increasingly likely, the official ADN news agency said Tuesday. ADN also said EI Al had signed a treaty with the East German state carrier Interflug under which the two airlines recognised each other for the first time and agreed to handle each other's tickets. "There is great interest on the Israeli side in running flights between (Israel) and East Berlin," Interflug's flight director Kurt Zube told ADN, but added that the link could not come before an air traffic agreement between the two countries. Israel has never had relations with East Germany because its leaders never accepted responsibility for the Holocaust. Since the collapse of communist rule last year, East Germany has reversed its policy and the two countries have held official talks.

Minorco to buy U.S. company

NEW YORK (R) — South African-backed Minorco, the world's biggest gold mining company, said Tuesday it had agreed to buy Freeport-McMoran Gold, a New Orleans mining company, for \$705 million. Minorco, or Minerals and Resources Corp. Ltd. is the Luxembourg-based investment arm of Harry Oppenheimer's Anglo American Corp of South Africa Ltd and De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. The Oppenheimers are one of South Africa's wealthiest families, with a fortune built on gold and diamonds. Freeport-McMoran Gold Co. is 61 per cent owned by Freeport-McMoran Inc., which has an interest in a string of mining and energy exploration businesses in the United States. Its gold unit, based in New Orleans, Louisiana, mines and processes gold ore and explores for minerals and precious metals in North America. Last year the Oppenheimers conceded defeat in their hostile \$4.2 billion takeover bid for Britain's Consolidated Gold Field PLC, the world's no. 2 gold producer.

Iran, S. Korea agree on projects

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has said it had agreed with South Korea on the participation of South Korean firms in major gas, petrochemical and industrial projects. The accord was reached in talks with a delegation led by South Korean Energy Minister Lee Bong-Suh Iran's IRNA news agency quoted Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh as saying. Aqazadeh said the two sides agreed to complete the Bandar Khomeini petrochemical complex, a joint venture from which Japanese partners led by Mitsui withdrew, and the building of the second phase of the Kangan gas refinery, both on Iran's Gulf coast. A unit of the first phase of the refinery, built by the South Korean firm Daelim, began operating earlier this month.

Peanuts

Mutt'n Jeff

Andy Capp



AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, February 21, 1990				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell	French franc	118.3 119.0
U.S. dollar	671.0	675.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	461.7 464.5
Pound Sterling	1148.0	1154.9	Dutch guilder	356.5 358.6
Deutsche mark	401.8	404.2	Swedish crown	109.9 110.6
Swiss franc	453.9	456.6	Italian lira (for 100)	54.2 54.5
			Belgian franc (for 10)	192.1 193.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7145/55	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1990/2000	Canadian dollar	
	1.6600/67	Deutsche marks	
	1.8775/85	Dutch guilders	
	1.4733/40	Swiss francs	
	34.77/80	Belgian francs	
	5.6525/75	French francs	
	1235/1236	Italian lire	
	145.18/28	Japanese yen	
	6.0920/1020	Swedish crowns	
	6.4350/400	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4150/200	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	420.70/421.20	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australia's share market rebounded from its lows in response to a statement by federal treasurer Keating that conditions are right for a fall in interest rates. The All Ordinaries Index finished down 6.2 points at 1,624.2.

TOKYO — The Nikkei Index plunged 1,161.19 points, or 3.15 per cent, to 35,734.33 on fears of worldwide rises in interest rates. Investors scrambled to sell, then headed for the sidelines in thin trading.

HONG KONG — Stocks went into free-fall in the afternoon in reaction to Tokyo's slump. The Hang Seng Index closed down 118.63 points, or 3.98 per cent, at 2,862.27.

SINGAPORE — Share prices plunged across the board on panic selling in nervous reaction to the fall in Tokyo. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 50.98 points, or 3.19 per cent, to 1,544.42.

BOMBAY — Share prices recovered marginally on short covering on the last day of the two-week current account. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index rose 5.10 points to 679.57.

FRANKFURT — West German share prices edged up above the days lows by the close as a rebound in bond prices added a measure of stability. The Dax Index fell 16.62 points at 1,807.19 after a drop of 45.38 points on Tuesday.

ZURICH — CIBA-Geigy's registered shares and participation certificates surged, and those of other major Swiss firms followed, after the company said it planned to open its registered shares to foreign investors. The SPI index fell 9.4 points, or 0.85 per cent, to 1,107.6.

LONDON — Shares edged up from day's lows as Wall Street showed some signs of stability after tumbling 30 points in early trading. London was already braced for a big drop in New York after the heavy losses in Tokyo. At 1624 GMT the FTSE index was down 18.4 points at 2,258.6.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are about to have some very interesting encounters and relationships come into your life. Do with your family now to visit other relatives and friends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Interesting new acquaintances will now be waiting to come into your life. Find out now what your attachment needs of a practical nature and give it.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A family member that was out of your life will come back to be helpful to you. Give your attachment needs of a practical nature and give it.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Admit an efficient change in your life. Entertain your attachment needs of a practical nature and give it.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be alert for doing favours for friends and you will reap tremendous benefits. Accept sudden romantic gestures from your mate and enjoy yourselves.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your home is the place to think about adding improvements to increase your value. Stick to proven methods in doing what pleases your attachment for more joy.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have the chance today to make some interesting new friendships. Improving your property will increase your value. Share your attachment needs of a practical nature and give it.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can join forces with new acquaintances in enjoying recreation now. You see with your family how to increase value of your property and concord at home.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Family members are before you take on new duties that appeal to you. Romance is apparent in your mind and heart with your attachment.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Accept charming outsiders now into your inner circle of friends. Invite a charming partner into your home for discussions of joint interest.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Join couples at recreation as much as possible today. Duties at home require exacting attention; so give it to get the best results done.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) A new friend you like emotionally is very good for you. Be alert to all kinds of interesting new situations at your home that might be good.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
BY TARIK HIRSH
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HOLD UP THAT GUESS

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 5 6
♥ 7 4 2
♦ Q 9 3
♣ K J 5

EAST
♠ A 7 3
♥ Q 6
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ A 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 9
♥ A K 5
♦ A K J
♣ Q 10 7 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♣
Good declarer play is not the prerogative of those with a thorough knowledge of calculus. Following a few simple precepts will improve anyone's skill.

If 26 points are all that are required to make three no trump, declarer should have made his contract with an overtrick. South's sequence showed 19-20 points, so North had more than enough to raise to game. West led the jack of hearts. East put up her queen and declarer won. With two aces to force out before

being able to enjoy nine tricks, declarer gazed vacantly into space for a brief while before electing to attack spades. Tough luck!
East took the ace and reverted to hearts, and declarer's remaining stopper was removed. West grabbed the ace of clubs at the first opportunity and was able to cash just enough hearts to defeat the contract one trick.
Now it is true that, had declarer chosen to force out the ace of clubs first, rather than the ace of spades, nine tricks would have been easy. In fact, South could have taken 11. But that was a sheer guess. Instead, a simple maneuver would have insured the contract.
Holdup plays are common enough when declarer holds only one stopper in the suit. But they can be just as effective with a double stopper. See what happens if declarer allows East to win the first trick, then takes the heart continuation.
Let's suppose, further, that declarer again makes the wrong guess and forces out the ace of spades. As the cards lie, East has no more hearts, so declarer can later drive out the ace of spades and hold his losers to one heart and the two aces. And if East does have a heart, the suit will break 4-3 and declarer loses only two hearts and the two aces.

GULF CUP

Kuwait defeats Bahrain

KUWAIT (AP) — Hosts Kuwait defeated Bahrain 1-0 in the opening match Wednesday of the 10th Gulf Arab soccer tournament at the Peace and Friendship Stadium. The goal was scored in the 10th minute.

Bahrain put up a lot of pressure from the kickoff but an error in marking in the box after nine minutes cost them the only goal in the match.

Kuwait skipper Nasser Ghanim executed a free kick from the box. Wajid Suleiman, who was left unmarked in the centre of the field, headed home past diving Hmoud Sultan to give Kuwaitis the winner.

The tournament, which goes on till March 9, is played by Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates. The UAE is one of the 24 contenders for the World Cup finals in June.

The Saudi cancellation came only five days before the contest was to start, and the Saudi Football Association stood by their decision despite Kuwait's quick dismantling of the posters.

The World Football Association considers the World Cup games friendly ones, but for the Gulf region the tournament is a prestigious event for the most favoured soccer sport.

Iraq, holders of the championship, and host Kuwait are favourites to win.

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Colombia beats Soviet Union

LOS ANGELES (R) — Colombia beat the Soviet Union 4-2 in a penalty shoot-out in a World Cup soccer warm-up match Tuesday.

The Colombians scored their first three penalty kicks. Soviet goalkeeper Victor Chanov saved the fourth Colombian attempt.

Colombia's goalkeeper Rene Higuita was the hero as he blocked two of the Soviet attempts. He also scored on the last of the five penalty kicks to win the match.

The first of a four-team tournament before a crowd of 18,000. Both sides have qualified for the World Cup.

Colombia's head coach Francisco Maturana said recent death threats against the side's players and coaches had not affected his team's play.

"They haven't affected us at all," Maturana said through an interpreter. "We were pretty calm. We play for the fun of it."

Earlier this month, Colombia's biggest selling newspaper, El Tiempo, said a shadowy group called Luficol, an acronym for clean football in Colombia, issued a taped message threatening the lives of players and coaches.

Maturana said there was room for improvement in all aspects of his team's play.

"... By no means am I satisfied," he said.

In Tuesday's match, the Colombians played an aggressive first half against a seemingly sluggish Soviet team.

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E. Germany's success looks set to end

By Adrian Warner

EAST BERLIN — East Germany's remarkable success story in international sport over the last 20 years looks to be coming to an end.

Struggling to find the money to sustain a sophisticated system which under Communist rule employed thousands of trainers and scientists, the country knows its days as one of the top three Olympic powers are numbered.

The nation of 17 million people which blossomed from its first Olympics in 1968 to win the second highest number of medals at the 1988 Seoul Games has been thrown into a crisis since last year's crumbling of the Berlin Wall.

"There is no doubt in the future we are not going to be able to keep up the standards we showed in Seoul," Olympic shot put champion Ulf Timmermann told Reuters in an interview.

"Like much of the whole country, sport is in a crisis. The system that helped us develop talent is in danger," he said.

East Germany's former Communist rulers saw sport as a way of gaining international prestige and pumped a great deal of state money into building an extensive network of local clubs, pressure-cooker sports schools and sports science centres.

Talented youngsters, spotted at the country's many local sports clubs, which were organised by state-run factories, were sent to some 25 special sports schools.

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There they trained every day under the eyes of top coaches and benefitted from extensive research in sports medicine. Secured of an education, career and financial future, many quickly graduated to national teams and Olympic success.

While the general public struggled to find a swimming pool for their leisure time, the state built centres for the elite in sports such as athletics, swimming, bobsleigh and ski jumping.

The techniques were always kept secret from the West which tended to tarnish East German success with suspicions of widespread doping, supported to some extent by allegations from athletes who defected.

But with the country's economy in a crisis since last November's collapse of the Berlin Wall, the whole system itself looks set to crumble.

"Everything was always kept a secret," Timmermann said as he sat in a gloomy weight-training room built beside the scruffy, muddy field at the East Berlin sports centre where he has trained since childhood.

Beside the centre in a run-down residential district of East Berlin stands one of the sports schools behind the state's success. Timmermann is a former pupil.

"But you can see for yourself, these facilities are not really world class. I've seen better."

"We pumped a lot of money into top-class sports and ignored sport for the man in the street. That was the problem," he said.

"The fact that we kept techniques secret in our top-class sport only fuelled the rumours from abroad."

"Doping is banned in East Germany. It is such a tricky subject that until someone has complete proof that an athlete took a specific substance at a specific time, then everything else is pure speculation. It's a worldwide problem."

The firms previously given state subsidies to run sports clubs are now finding they can no longer afford them as they seek to economise in the face of the West's competitive business system looking likely to be introduced.

Hundreds of coaches at sports schools and clubs face redundancy with government plans for cuts to the sports budget.

Officials know that if the local clubs go to the wall there is a danger young talent will simply dry up because children have few public facilities to turn to.

"We need to make sure the local sports clubs are saved and we promote sport for children as well as sport for the general public," said Timmermann, who is now leading a campaign to get East Germany's caretaker government to secure money for sport.

In stark contrast to their secretive past, East German sports officials are quickly turning to sponsorships deals with Western companies to find an answer to the problem.

They plan to market and sell the medical and science secrets behind their success and have ideas of opening up the sports schools to youngsters from the West for the first time.

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China prepares doping crackdown

BEIJING (R) — Organisers of this year's Asian Games in China are preparing a doping crackdown after drug scandals at both the 1988 Olympics and this year's Commonwealth Games.

"China has a policy of strictly banning drugs, strict checking and strict punishment," professor Yang Tianle, head of the Asian Games Doping Control Centre, said in an interview.

Asian athletes, especially Chinese, use a variety of herbal medicines and tonics, with some containing banned substances.

Yang said at least four Chinese athletes — two speedskaters, a rifle shooter and a badminton player — had tested positive in international events, although all denied knowing they had used banned drugs.

The two speedskaters, both women, are the only Chinese to have tested positive for steroids. In this case methyl-testosterone contained in a herbal medicine.

An athlete in the Chinese squad preparing for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics had said she knew of illegal doping among the Chinese contingent in the form of herbal medicines. She did not reveal any names.

"I don't believe this is true. There is no proof of this, no evidence," Yang said.

"We are extremely strict towards our athletes. They would be severely punished."

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Scotland anxious to improve on finals form

By Timothy Collins

LONDON — Scotland, having overcome their nerves to qualify for a fifth successive World Cup finals appearance, will be anxious to improve on their past form when they travel to Italy in June.

For in each of the finals series in 1974, 1978, 1982 and 1986, the Scots have failed to live up to the hopes of their "tartan army" of fans and have been eliminated in the first round.

Indeed, they have never gone beyond the opening round in six appearances in the finals since they first qualified in 1954.

This time, after qualifying second behind Yugoslavia in a group which also contained France, Norway and Cyprus, Scotland and their supporters will at least travel with their hopes tempered by the knowledge that they will be in one of the toughest opening sections.

In Group C in Turin and Genoa, Scotland will be facing three-times winners Brazil, Sweden and Costa Rica. It will be the third time in five series of World Cup finals they have met the Brazilians in the opening round.

"It is a glamorous group. It always is when you are picked with the Brazilians," said team manager Andy Roxburgh. "But it is not an easy one and we shall have our work cut out to qualify from it."

Roxburgh, a quiet and studious coach whose playing career was spent with some of Scotland's less distinguished clubs in the lower divisions, followed Alex Ferguson in charge after the 1986 finals in Mexico.

He recognised his task was to try and utilise the Scots' natural skill, energy and enthusiasm in a tactical framework which would prove sound in international

